Heartland Genealogy Blog Posts July-August 2025

Marcia Crawford Philbrick

https://heartlandgenealogy.org

Printed on August 3, 2026

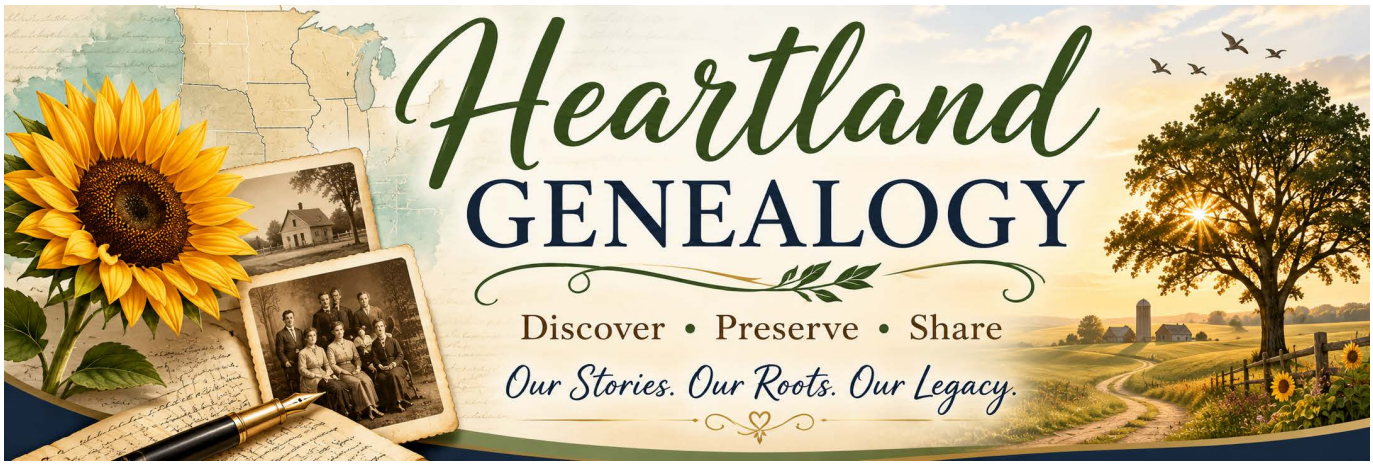


Table of Contents

Relative Finder
Patrick Crawford Family
Andrew Crawford Deed
Patriots
Esther Stella Crawford Noll
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday's Diggings
DNA Mystery
DNA Mystery Part 2
Dooley Survey
Friday Find
Esther's Song
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday's Diggings
Comment to Sources
Captain Moses Dooley
Capt. Dooley's Song
Friday Find
Esther Crawford Overview
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday's Diggings
Learning AI
FAN Club Analysis
Following the Leaves: What I Learned from Unexpected Ancestry Hints
Friday Find
ABC Biography Lois Crawford Maden
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday's Diggings
James Crawford of Cathey River Area
We Relate
Cleaning Up Citations
Friday Find
ABC Song: Lois Elida Crawford Maden
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday's Diggings
Ancestry's Tree Tools
Misleading Hint
Same Land
Friday Find
ABC Biography: Ethel Frances Briles
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday's Diggings
How a Tax Record Helped Date a Migration
James Crawford Will
Berry – Crawford Family Connections
Friday Find
ABC Biography: Glen Briles
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday's Diggings
George Crawford's Estate
Descendants of James Crawford of Augusta County, Virginia
Chasing a Footnote
Friday's Finds
ABC Biography: Lulu Briles Cope
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun
Monday Diggings
George Crawford Will
Following Randy's Lead
William Crawford Will
Friday Find
ABC Biography: Henry Currey
Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

Relative Finder

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 1, 2025
Crawford,FamilySearch
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/01/relative-finder-2/

Have you ever wondered how two seemingly separate family lines might be related?

While reading a genealogy article about the family of Patrick Crawford from Augusta County, Virginia, I began to wonder whether his line might be related to the James Crawford line of Garrard County, Kentucky. To explore this possibility, I turned to ChatGPT for help.

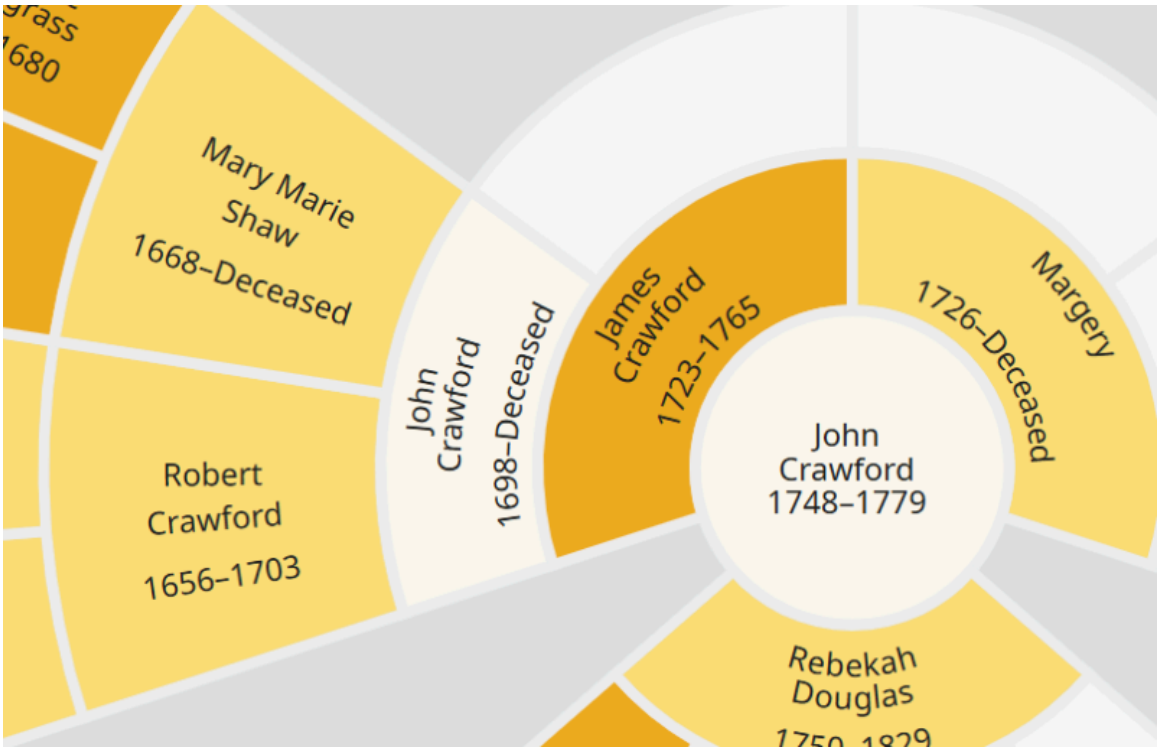
I asked whether the FamilySearch tree could show how two individuals are related. The response explained how to view *my* relationship to someone else on the tree—but when it comes to comparing *two deceased individuals*, the suggestion was to use Relative Finder.

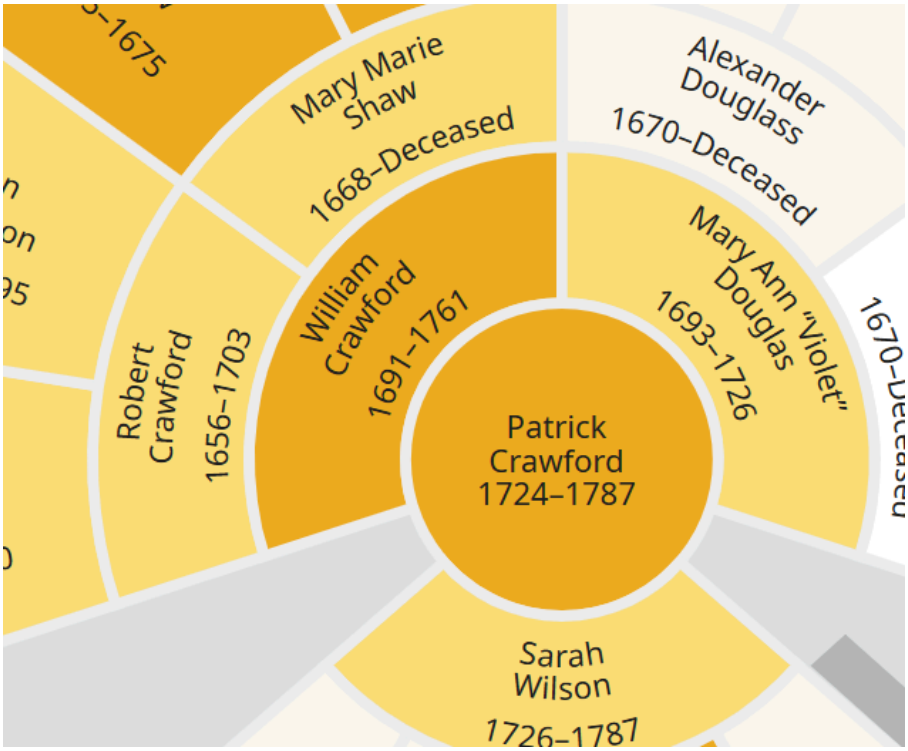
On the Relative Finder site, I clicked **CONNECT**, then chose **"See Relationship between Two Deceased People."** I entered the following FamilySearch IDs:

- **LZ58-W9R** — *John Crawford*, father of James Crawford (who married Martha Knight) and brother of the James who married Rebecca Anderson
- **L41K-QNP** — *Patrick Crawford*, brother of Alexander Crawford (who married Mary McPheeters)

The results? John and Patrick Crawford are *1st cousins once removed*, sharing **Robert Crawford** as a common ancestor.

A comparison of their family trees confirms this connection—bringing together two lines of Crawfords that once seemed distant.





This discovery not only highlights how closely connected these Crawford lines are, but it also opens the door to more research into how other early Virginia families might be linked. Who knows what other surprises are hidden in the branches of the family tree?

Patrick Crawford Family

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 2, 2025
Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/02/patrick-crawford-family/

As genealogists, we often trace our family lines generation by generation, hoping each discovery will lead us a step further back in time. But what happens when your research leads you to a region filled with people who share your surname—yet their relationships remain unclear? That's exactly the challenge I've encountered while trying to trace my Crawford line back to Virginia.

This journey has brought me to **Augusta County, Virginia**, a region complicated by shifting county boundaries over time. While I've previously researched the family of **Alexander Crawford and Mary McPheeters**, I hadn't delved into the line of Alexander's brother, **Patrick Crawford**—until now.

A valuable resource in this search has been *Miami Valley Genealogies* by Lindsay Brien. The book offers detailed information about Patrick Crawford's descendants, helping to untangle this branch of the family. To see how Brien's account aligns with the FamilySearch tree, I added FamilySearch IDs to each person and noted a few discrepancies between the two sources.

Below is a summary of Patrick Crawford's family as presented in the Brien book, enhanced with FamilySearch identifiers and annotations highlighting where the records diverge.

Patrick Crawford [L41K-QNP] was born in Ireland and came first to Pennsylvania and removed from there to Augusta Co., Va., about 1750 (Waddell). His wife was Sarah Wilson [LJJ3-MZX] and they had four sons and five daughters. The daughters were:

- Martha [LHXT-PY9], bap. 1748, probably died young.
- Elizabeth [KGS8-52W], b. Oct. 18, 1751, married Alexander Robertson [KGS8-tYN].
- Pegey (Margaret) [LCJ2-C31] married John Crawford [KZYZ-8X8] (son of George). [FS has John Crawford as the son of Alexander and Mary McPheeters]
- Dau. married James McChesney, had a son George. [Sarah Rebecca Crawford L6VX-1D1 on FS with second husband named James McChesney LHK3-48G]
- Martha [LZZ1-66K], b. May 10, 1761, married Mar. 13, 1788, Col. Andrew Anderson [L41L-V37] as his second wife. His first wife, her cousin, daughter of George Crawford, died 1786. [Martha Crawford LCM3-CDG – daughter of George Crawford and Elizabeth Poage]
- Mary [LHX5-KH8] married Dec. 30, 1786 (FS shows marriage date of 1 Dec 1786), James Crawford [LQR8-7GN] (oldest son of George) [FS has this as George Alexander Crawford LZJF-47B and wife Elizabeth Poage LZGF-N5C making Mary and James 1st cousins].

The sons were:

George Crawford (KLBL-VM2), born Oct. 1, 1754 (FS has birthdate as 1 Oct 1756) married June 23, 1788, Nancy Winter (FS has her name as Nancy Winters LZLH-G9w) (Dau. of Wm. (LVJM-92J) & Ann (Boone) (LVJM-SSS) Winter)
Issue:

- Nancy Crawford (K8VC-4DN) married John Miller (L85R-YYW).
- Hannah " (MXDV-923) " Harry " (FS has his name as Henry Miller LZLH-GD8)
- Sarah " (L7MS-RXH) " James Bell (his 2nd wife) (L78H-QG3)
- Jane " (KFKT-3SL) " Franklin McCue (KFKT-3SG)
- Martha " (MQP6-PC2) " Peter Hanger (L85R-YYS)
- Polly (Mary Crawford 1791-1828 KF5R-WL5) " " James Bourland (L8PP-477), Sept. 17, 1812
- Margaret " (KD1M-5CH) " James Walker (K6H5-99Q)
- *FS has 2 daughters not listed in the article: Rebecca (M1QM-Y6X) and Elizbeth (9XKW-YDM)*

The above from Chalkley, Vol. 1, p. 427: "George Crawford died intestate leaving 6 children" etc.;"Peggy a minor;" Nancy who married John Miller not in deed.

John Crawford (Maj. John) [LHNZ-MB7], born Mar. 29, 1764; married July 5, 1791, Rebecca Allen (M1QM-1MW) (dau. of Capt. James) (LYN5-TX4 and Margaret Anderson LZ1X-25D)
Issue:

- Elizabeth (MNVP-X6K) married Capt. William Ingles (L17Z-BMF)
- Sarah " (FS Sallie W. Crawford LZ88-VLX) John Hyde (LZLY-QFD)
- Margaret " (LHXW-XN4) Cyrus " (Cyrus Hyde KFKT-P2D) (1st wife)
- Maj. James " (LHF3-LSV) Cynthia McClung (LZGM-43V)
- John " (KFKT-PPP) Harriet " (KFKT-3CJ)
- George W. never married (LBHX-PYY)
- Ann (FS Nancy Ann LH71-23P) married Franklin McCue (KFKT-3SG), 2nd wife
- Mary " (FS Mary Lewis Crawford L5V6-WDV) md Edward Moorman (KFKG-YRY)
- Rebecca " (KCTZ-2HK) Stewart McClung (L7Y2-33N)

In 1781 Patrick and his sons George & John appear in list of Tithables.

-60-

William Crawford born Aug. 6, 1767 (LKNB-7RX); married Nancy Smith (LH87-VMH) (dau. of Abraham Smith). *(FS has Ensign John Smith 9VW6-2VC as the father and Jean Hart LCJR-L64 as the mother)*

Issue: Benjamin, James, John, George, William and six daughters.

- Benjamin (LKND-WLD)married Magdalen Cochran (LWFH-P6W); issue: Elizabeth (L8L3-ZC8); James (LWFH-P5X). *(FS has additional children: William, George, John, Nancy, Addison, Magdalen and Dr. Benjamin Lewis Crawford)*
- Nancy married Col. James Crawford of Culpeper; Addison; Benjamin.*(FS does not have Nancy as a child of William and Nancy (Smith) Crawford)*
- James died unmarried. *(FS has James R. Crawford GMRN-FY5 with 2 sets of parents including William Crawford and Nancy Denbo / FS shows a wife: Hetty Bowman GSGV-F12)*
- John (KCN1-BGB) married Mary Allen (MRVC-T2X).

James Crawford (LCZS-D2Z) born Aug. 6, 1767, named as second son of Patrick, married a Miss McClung of Greenbrier and had issue: *(FS does not show a wife or children.)*

- John H. Crawford married Mrs. Tirkle née Rice.
- Wm. H. married Miss McChesney of Rockbridge.
- Edward married daughter of Wm. Crawford of Stone Ch.
- James " in Texas; desc. unknown.
- Marshall " daughter of Alexander Crawford of Crawford's Springs, Augusta Co.

61–
William Crawford, 5th son of Patrick, married 1st Margaret Bouland *(FS spells the name Bourland)* K852-H6M
daughter of James Bouland *(FS James Bourland L8PP-477)*. *(FS has this William Crawford LH5L-1Z7 as the son of William Crawford LKNB-7RX and Nancy Smith LH87-VMH making him a grandson of Patrick Crawford L41K-QNP and Sarah WIlson LJJ3-MZX)*

Issue:

- James (KZ7H-PYT), married Mary Miller (L8PP-521), daughter of William Miller (KHBT-6H6)
- Sarah, " (GSG8-YJ7) E. C. Crawford (FS Pvt Charles Edward Crawford GSG8-R89)
- Ann, (KZRL-BQL)unmarried
- George (FS LC74-99L), married Lillie Parkins (FS Mary Lytle Parkins LC74-9W2), daughter of Isaac Parkins (L8MD-61M) and granddaughter of Col. Samuel Hamsberger (KH11-BHJ)

- Benjamin [MTND-RFY], unmarried

FS has the following children that are NOT listed in this article: John Willliam Crawford L82M-QT9, Ada Clement Crawford L82M-QTZ, Nancy Smith Crawford L82M-QRD and Hannah Crawford G5KG-8R1

William married 2nd, Sarah Bouland, sister of 1st wife. No issue.

> Brien Lindsay, Miami Valley Genealogies: 145 Family Records, Vol. 2: Families A-J (n.p.: n.p., n.d.), p. 59 (image 451 of 1204); digitized microfilm, FamilySearch, DGS #007712477 : viewed online 20 June 2025.

Exploring Patrick Crawford's family through *Miami Valley Genealogies* has helped shed light on a previously under-researched branch of my Crawford line. By comparing these details with the FamilySearch tree, I've not only clarified relationships but also uncovered inconsistencies worth further investigation.

This process reminds me how valuable it is to revisit published genealogies with fresh eyes—and modern tools. If you descend from the Augusta County Crawfords or have insights into this family line, I'd love to hear from you. Collaboration just might help us untangle more of this Crawford puzzle.

Andrew Crawford Deed

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 3, 2025
Botetourt County,Crawford,Virginia
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/03/andrew-crawford-deed-2/

Although I haven't yet discovered a direct connection between my ancestor **James Crawford (1772–1854)**—who married **Sally Duggins** in **1799 in Garrard County, Kentucky**—and the other Crawford families living in Garrard County at the time, I continue to research those lines in hopes of finding common ground. Both of these other Crawford lines are believed to descend from **James [L5FF-1NF] and Margery Crawford** of **Augusta County, Virginia**.

While reviewing the FamilySearch profiles for updates, I came across a particularly helpful comment on James Crawford's profile:

> *James Crawford bought 181 acres of land in Augusta County on Whistle Creek in the Forks of the James River, Virginia, from James Campbell on 17 May 1756. James Campbell sold only 181 acres of his 434-acre tract. This 181 acres later became part of Botetourt County and eventually Rockbridge County as county boundaries shifted. The same land was later sold by Andrew Crawford and his mother, Margery Crawford, on 2 Jan 1776 to Alexander Wyley—suggesting that Margery was James Crawford's widow and that he had died by that time.*

Intrigued, I set out to find the deed documenting the sale of this land by Andrew and Margery Crawford. Below is a transcription of that deed.

> image 65 of 231
>
> 235
> This Indenture made the second Day of January in the
> year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred & seventy six
> between Andrew Crawford & Margery Crawford his Mother of the
> County of Botetourt in the Colony of Virginia of the one part &
> Alexander Wyley of the said County & Colony aforesaid of
> The other Part Witnesseth that for & in consideration of the
> Sum of sixty three Pounds current Money of Virginia to the
> said Andrew Crawford & Margery in Hand paid by the sd
> Alex Wyley at or before the sealing & Delivery of these Present
> the Receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge & thereof
> doth release acquit & discharge the said Alex Wyley his Exors
> & Administrators by these Presents they the said Andw Crawford
> & Margery hath granted bargained sold aliened & confirmed &
> by these Presents doth grant bargain sell alien confirm
> unto the said Alex Wyley & his Heirs one certain Tract of

Land containing one hundred & eighty one acres (more or less)
lying & being in the County of Botetourt & Colony of Virginia
& bounded as follows (ie) Beginning at a Bunch of Linns
on the Bank of the North River Corner to Robert McElheney
& run with his line & John Wyley ‘ s North 16 Degrees West
308 Poles to two Pines Corner to the said Wyleys Land thence south
30 Degrees West 200 Poles to three white Oaks Corner to James
Campbells thence with her Lines South East 100 Poles to Fort
thence South west 64 Poles to two Hicorys South East 40 Poles
to a white Oak North East sixty four poles crossing a branch to
[two no] Oaks South East 6 4 Poles to a Cedar & Hicory on a steep
Bank on the River then up the River to the Beginning and
all Houses Buildings orchards Ways Waters Water Courses
Profits Commodities Hereditaments & appurtenances whatever
to the said Premises hereby granted on my part thereof belonging
in any wise is appertaining & the Reversion & Reversions remainder
& remainders Rents Issues & Profits thereof & also all the Estate
Right Title Interest use Trust Property Claim & Demand
whatsoever of him the said Alexander Wiley of in & to the said
Premise and all Deeds Evidences & writings touching or in any
Wise concerning the same To have & to hold the same hereby
conveyed & all & singular other the Premises hereby bargained
& sold & every part & parcel thereof with their & every of their
appurtenances unto the said Alex Wiley his Heirs & Assigns
forever to the only proper use & Behoof of him the said Alexr Wyley
& of his Heirs & assigns forever And the said Andw Crawford and

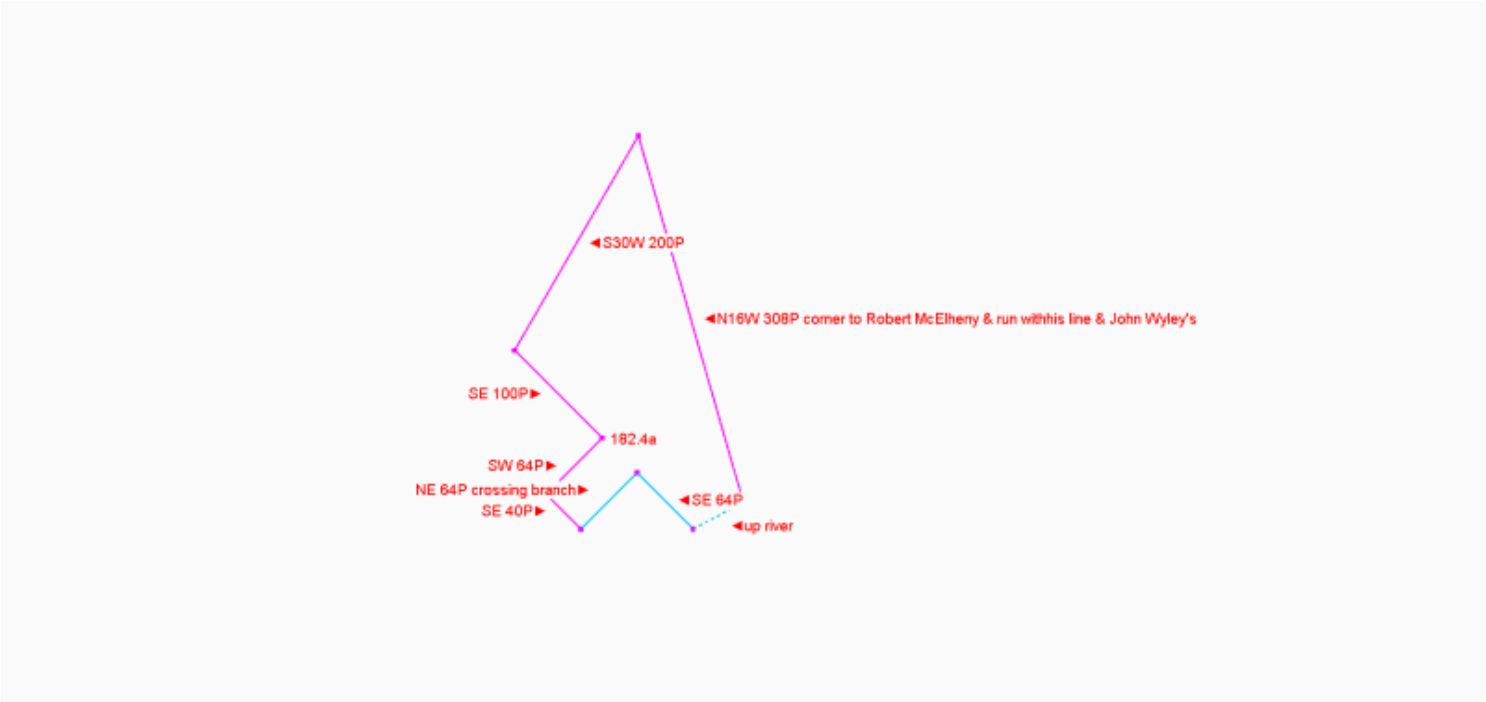
236
Margery Crawford his Mother pr hims of his Heirs Excrs
& Administrators doth covenant promise & grant to & with
the said Alexr Wyley his Heirs & assigns by these Presents that
the said Andrew Crawford & Margery now at the Time of sealing
and delivering of these Presents seized of a good sure perfect &
indefeasable Estate of Inheritance in fee simple of & in the
manner hereby bargained & sold & that he hath good Power &
lawful & absolute authority to grant & convey the same to the
said Alex Wyley in Manner & Form aforesaid and that the
said Premises now are & so forever here after shall remain &
before & Release of & from all former & other Gifts Grants Bargain
sales Dower Right & Title of Dower Judgements Executions
Tithes Troubles Charges & Encumbrances whatsoever made
[?] committed or suffered by the said Andrew Crawford
sd Margery or any other person or Personw whatsoever (the
Quit rents hereafter to grow due & payable to our sovereign
Lord the King his heirs & sucessors for & in Respect of the
Premises only excepted & fore prized), & that the said Andw
Crawford & Margery & his heirs all & singular the premises
hereby bargained & sold with the appurtenances unto the
said Alexr Wyley by his Heirs & assigns against them the
said Andrw Crawford & Margery & their Heirs & all & every
other Person & persons whatsoever shall warrant & for
ever defend by these Presents And lastly that they the
said Andw Crawford & Margery & their Heirs & all & every other
Person & Persons & his & their Heirs any thing having or
Claiming in the Premises herein before mentioned or
intended to be hereby bargained & sold shall & will from
Time to Time & at all Times hereafter at the reasonable
Request & at the proper cost & charges in the [Land] of him
The said Alexander Wyley & her Heirs or assigns make
so & Execute or cause or procure to be made done & executed
all every such further & other lawful & reasonable act &
acts thing & things conveyances & assurances for the
further better & more perfect conveying & assuring the premises
aforesaid with their & every of their appurtenances unto
the said Alexander Wyley & his Heirs & assigns as by the said
Alexr Wyley & his heirs or assigns or their Council [learned]
in the said shall be reasonably devised advised or required
In Witness whereof the sd Andw Crawford hath hereunto set his Hand
& Seal the Day & year first above written

page 237
Andrew Crawford (seal)
Margery (her mark) Crawford (seal)

Sealed & delivered
in the presence of John Gabriel Johns PA Lockart
John Armstrong Geo . Rutledge
Thos Bowyer Jr Christian Samuel
Walker Wm McNeil James Ritchey
George Poage
At a Court held for Botetourt County the 14th of May 1776
This Indenture was proved by the Oaths of George Rutledge
Thos Bowyer & George Poage Witnesses & ordered to be recorded
Teste John May CBC

"Botetourt, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS4C-9WLW?view=explore : Jun 25, 2025), image 65 of 231; . Image Group Number: 007893747

Using DeedMapper software, I created a visual representation of this land parcel based on the deed's description.



Researching land records like this deed not only helps piece together family relationships but also provides a clearer view of where and how our ancestors lived. The connection between Andrew and Margery Crawford, and the land originally purchased by James Crawford, strengthens the case for their family ties and offers clues for further investigation. As county boundaries shifted and families migrated westward, records like these serve as valuable anchors in the timeline of Crawford history. If you're researching this line—or have insights into the Crawfords of Augusta, Botetourt, or Rockbridge County—I'd love to hear from you.

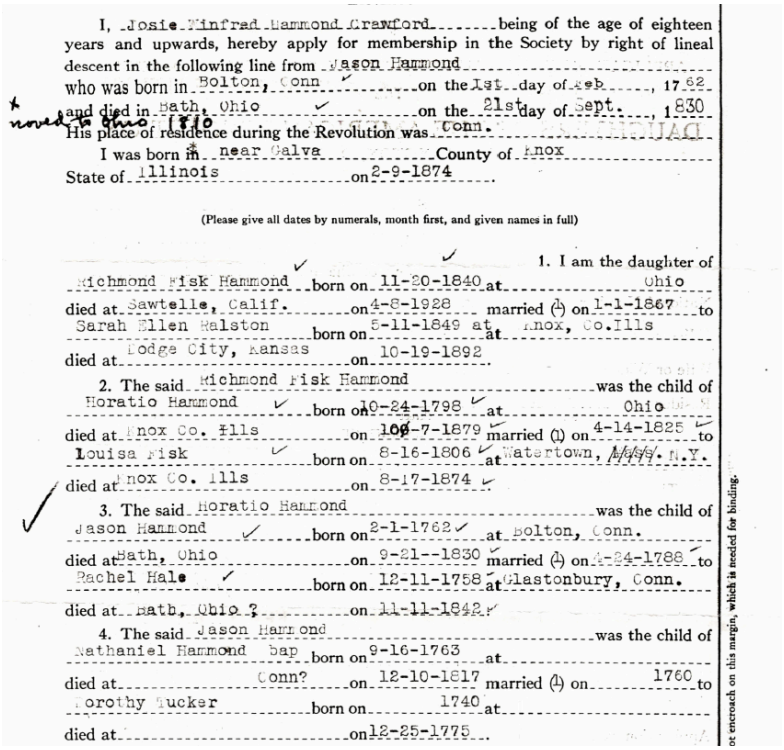
Patriots

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 4, 2025
#52ancestors,Revolutionary_War
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/04/patriots-4/

In honor of the 4th of July, I am reposting this.

Does your tree go back to colonial times? If so, have you tried to find revolutionary war ancestors? When I first started researching my tree, I looked for a Crawford that served. Unfortunately, I still haven't been able to get my tree back far enough on my Crawford line to have a potential patriot.

Since I had a copy of my great grandmother's application to the Daughters of the American Revolution, I gave up looking for a Crawford patriot and applied using her application — and I was denied. Her application used Jason Hammond (1762-1842) as her patriot ancestor.



I, Josie Winfred Hammond Crawford being of the age of eighteen years and upwards, hereby apply for membership in the Society by right of lineal descent in the following line from Jason Hammond
who was born in Bolton, Conn on the 1st day of Feb, 1762
and died in Bath, Ohio on the 21st day of Sept., 1830
His place of residence during the Revolution was Conn.
I was born in near Galva County of Knox
State of Illinois on 2-9-1874.

(Please give all dates by numerals, month first, and given names in full)

1. I am the daughter of
Richmond Fisk Hammond born on 11-20-1840 at Ohio
died at Sawtelle, Calif. on 4-8-1928 married (1) on 1-1-1867 to
Sarah Ellen Ralston born on 5-11-1849 at Knox, Co.Ills
died at Dodge City, Kansas on 10-19-1892.

2. The said Richmond Fisk Hammond was the child of
Horatio Hammond born on 10-24-1798 at Ohio
died at Knox Co. Ills on 10-7-1879 married (1) on 4-14-1825 to
Louisa Fisk born on 8-16-1806 at Watertown, N.Y.
died at Knox Co. Ills on 8-17-1874

3. The said Horatio Hammond was the child of
Jason Hammond born on 2-1-1762 at Bolton, Conn.
died at Bath, Ohio on 9-21--1830 married (1) on 4-24-1788 to
Rachel Hale born on 12-11-1758 at Glastonbury, Conn.
died at Bath, Ohio ? on 11-11-1842

4. The said Jason Hammond was the child of
Nathaniel Hammond bap born on 9-16-1763 at
died at Conn? on 12-10-1817 married (1) on 1760 to
Dorothy Tucker born on 1740 at
died at on 12-25-1775.

* moved to Ohio 1810

Do not encroach on this margin, which is needed for binding.

However, the line thru this Jason Hammond is closed. My application was modified to go thru Jason's father, Nathaniel Hammond (#A050625) who provided patriotic service for Connecticut.

After my application was approved, I quit looking at most of my other branches. Wanting to have a patriot ancestor on my mom's side of the tree, I did investigate the Buckles line.

Recently, I was curious about how many patriot lines I might have in my tree. Thus, I started researching the men in the 8th generation of my tree to see if someone with similar information was listed in the DAR ancestor file. And I found quite a few ancestors on the DAR site.

Paternal Side

- Elizur Talcott (1709-1797 #A113367 provided patriotic service and served as a Colonel for Connecticut in the 6th Regiment militia under Brigadier General Wolcott
- John Foster (1735-1800) #A041635 served as a private for Maryland under Capt. Peter Mantz
- Daniel Harris (abt 1737-1821) #A051563 served as a private for Virginia under Capt. James Kearny, Cols Thomas Hartly, Hubley
- Samuel Demarest (1707-1785) #A131555 possibly served for York County, Pennsylvania.
- Simon Van Arsdale (1746-1802) #A117118 served as a Major for Pennsylvania under Col. Andrew in the York County militia and also as a Captain under Col. McPherson and an ensign under Capt. Hugh Campbell
- Henry Banta (1718-1805) #A005785 provided patriotic service for Pennsylvania
- Harmanus Ostrander (1729-1803) #A210554 served as a private for new York in the Ulster county militia
- Ebenezer Merry (1748-1809) #A078189 served as a private for Connecticut under Lt. Seymour and Maj Newberry
- Stephen Peabody (1753-1838) #A086830 served as a sergeant for Massachusetts under Capt. Jabes West and Col. Jonathan Eddy

Maternal Side

- Benjamin Rush (1752-1819) #A100014 provided patriotic service in North Carolina by furnishing supplies in 1780
- James Buckles (1733-1797) #A016515 served as a Captain for Virginia in the Berkeley County militia
- Thomas Dawson (1760-1832) #A030832 provided patriotic service for Virginia by furnishing supplies
- Oliver Miles (1738-1820) #A078880 served as a private for Massachusetts under Lt. Ephraim Wheeler and Col Eleazor Brooks
- John Josselyn Junior (1735-1810) #A063118 served as a Captain for Massachusetts under Col. John Whetcomb at Lexington and in the 8th Worcester County Militia under Col Job Cushing. He was also a town treasurer.
- Nathaniel Wells Senior (1730-1804) #A122573 served as a private for Connecticut under Capt. James Chapman and Col. Samuel Holden Parsons
- Oliver White (1724-1789) served as a private for Massachusetts under Capt Eliakim Smith at Lexington and under Captains Smith, Moses Kellogg and Col. Jonathan Ward
- David Kennedy (1730-1792) #A064685 served as a private for Connecticut at Lexington
- Comfort Barnes (1737-1816) #A006295 was a civil servant and provided patriotic service for Massachusetts. He served on the Committee of Safety or Correspondence.

I never dreamed I had this many potential patriots in my tree! Now, I have to not only document their service but make sure I have documented my line back to them.

Esther Stella Crawford Noll

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 5, 2025
ABC Biography,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/05/esther-stella-crawford-noll/

An ABC Biography

Early Life and Family

Esther Stella Crawford was born on **February 6, 1905**, in **Dodge City, Kansas**, to **Judson Foster Crawford** and **Josie Winifred Hammond Crawford**. She was one of several children in the Crawford household and grew up on Avenue G in Dodge City. Records

from the 1905 Kansas State Census, as well as U.S. Census records from 1910, 1920, and 1925, show Esther living with her parents and siblings in the heart of Dodge City, a growing town known for its Wild West legacy.

Esther's known sibling was **Hugh Crawford**, who later lived in Florence, Arizona.

Education and Early Career

Esther attended **Dodge City High School**, graduating in the early 1920s. She pursued further education at **Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia**, and then went on to become a registered nurse. She graduated from **Baylor University's nursing program in Dallas, Texas**, and by **January 1929**, she had accepted a position as an operating nurse at **Cook's Memorial Hospital** in Fort Worth.

In the **1930 Census**, Esther was listed as a roomer in Fort Worth, employed as a hospital nurse. By the end of **1936**, she had relocated to **Tucson, Arizona**, where she worked at Southern Methodist Hospital.

World War II Service

Esther's commitment to nursing extended beyond civilian life. On **December 1, 1943**, she enlisted in the **U.S. Army Nurse Corps**. She was commissioned as a **Second Lieutenant** and assigned to the **185th General Hospital**. She underwent Army Nurse Corps training at **Hammer Field in California**, received vaccinations, and was issued a military ID card at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, before heading overseas.

From **April 1944 to August 1945**, she served in the **European-African-Middle Eastern Theater**, providing essential care to wounded soldiers during some of the war's most grueling campaigns. She held the military occupational specialty of **Nurse, General Duty (MOS 3449)** and attained the rank of **First Lieutenant**.

She was discharged at **Camp Sibert, Alabama**, on **December 23, 1945**, after two years of dedicated military service. Her discharge records note her blue eyes, blonde hair, and 5'2" height—small but mighty.

Marriage and Family Life

Just days after returning home from military service, Esther married **Carl Frederick Noll** on **December 27, 1945**, in Dodge City. Carl, a World War II U.S. Navy veteran born **February 13, 1906**, in **Dighton, Kansas**, had been discharged in October 1945.

Esther and Carl made their home in **Taos, New Mexico**.

After Carl's death on **April 12, 1982**, Esther moved back to Dodge City, living at **1914 Central Avenue**.

Later Years and Death

Esther remained active in her faith and community. She was a member of the **First Christian Church** in Dodge City. She died on **July 7, 1987**, at **Humana Hospital in Dodge City**, at the age of 82. She was buried beside her husband at **Maple Grove Cemetery**.

At the time of her passing, Esther's life was celebrated in a funeral led by Rev. Rick Cope, and memorials were suggested to the **Gregory Noll Foreign Mission Fund**, reflecting her deep-rooted family and spiritual values.

Historical Context

Esther lived through a remarkable era in American history. Born just after the turn of the century, she experienced the transformations of two world wars, the Great Depression, the rise of women in the workforce, and the civil rights movement. Her choice to become a nurse and serve during World War II was part of a broader trend of women stepping into critical roles during times of crisis.

Her service in the Army Nurse Corps placed her among more than 59,000 women who served as nurses during World War II, often under challenging and dangerous conditions. Esther's dedication to healing—both in military hospitals overseas and in civilian practice—exemplified a lifetime of compassion, courage, and quiet strength.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 6, 2025
Briles,Crawford,Currey,Mentzer
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/06/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-161/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Did your grandparents know their grandparents personally?

2) Checdk you family tree, and share your grandparents names, birth and death years and places, and their grandparents names, birth and death year and places, and indicate if they knew their grandparents.

Leon Crawford – born 1894

- Grandson of Washington Marion Crawford – (1838-1889)
- **Grandson of Mary Foster Crawford (1842-1929)**
- **Grandson of Richmond Fisk Hammond (1840-1928)**
- Grandson of Sarah Ellen Ralston (1849-1892)

Winnie Letha Currey – born 1903

- Granddaughter of HIram M. Currey (1835-1901)
- Granddaughter of Angelina Jane BUrke (1836-1901)
- Granddaughter of Albert Hutchinson (1836-1896)
- Granddaughter of Julia Harding (1840-1892)

Edward Osmond Briles – born 1891

- Grandson of Noah Washington Briles (1840-1879)
- **Grandson of Sarah Jane Thompson (1843-1930)**
- **Grandson of James Marshall Ricketts (1847-1920)**
- **Grandson of Rachel Elmeda Christy (1845-1927)**

Pauline Edith Mentzer – born 1896

- **Grandaughter of George Mentzer (1838-1912)**
- **Granddaughter of Emiline Minnick (1848-1927)**
- Granddaughter of Thurston Kennedy Wells (1821-1893)
- Granddaughter of Salome Adell Crandall (1836-1893)

My grandfather, Leon Crawford, knew his grandmother Crawford and his grandfather Hammond since they were all living in Dodge CIty at the same time.

My grandmother, Winnie Currey Crawford did not know her grandparents since they all died before her birth.

My grandfather, Edward O. Briles knew his grandmother, Sarah Jane Thompson Briles, and his grandparents James and Rachel (Christy) Ricketts since they all lived near Vernon, Kansas.

My grandmother, Pauline Mentzer Briles knew her Mentzer grandparents, George and Emiline (Minnick) Mentzer but did not know her Wells grandparents since they died before her birth.

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 7, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/07/mondays-diggings-5/

Today's item from my BRILES folder is another letter from Mildred Barby of Oklahoma to my grandmother, Pauline (Mentzer) Briles. This gossipy letter tells about several branches of the BRILES family and Mildred's research of her BRILES heritage.

RR1 Box 79
Knowles, Okla. 73847
Nov. 9, 1983
Dear Pauline,
Well, we are not strangers since our visit on the phone just a few minutes ago. I am so glad I could visit with you gave me a thrill. I have been working on the Briles genealogy for two years. My husband Fred, teasingly says, "That stuff is your Bible." I have many pictures of several families of the Briles and I am so proud of them. The more I can collect — the happier I am!
We live in the Okla. Panhandle on a ranch of 6,000 or so acres not far from Knowles. My husband has been a rancher…
page 2

All his life. We has one brother, Paul, and he is married to my youngest sister, Letha Mae. We just live about 1/8 mi. apart. The men ranch together.
I have one son who is in the navy, Lonnie Bailey. Lonnie

is named in honor of my father,
“Lon” Leonidus Harrison Briles. My dad
was 2nd son of Nathan & Susan
Briles. His grandparents were
Branson and Dorcus Briles
and they are buried in Hatler
cemetery near Altoona, Kans.
Branson was the son of Noah Sr.
and they lived in Randolph Co.
North Carolina. I have pictures
of each mentioned. I have
displayed, on my wall, pictures
of six generations. I am really
proud of them!
Fred had never been married
and neither had his brother.
Fred is 69, and I am 66. We
have been married 7 years.

3
We are flying via plane from Wichita, Kans.
Nov. 21st to Hartford, Conn. There we
will be met by our son and his
family to spend the Thanksgiving Holidays.
We will return Nov. 29th. He and
his family came last July and
spent some time with us.
I taught school about 17 yr.,
but retired when I met Fred.
My first husband Lee Roy Bailey
was killed in an accident with
our neighbor when they ran together
at a country intersection, not far
from their homes. I was 37 yr. & he 39

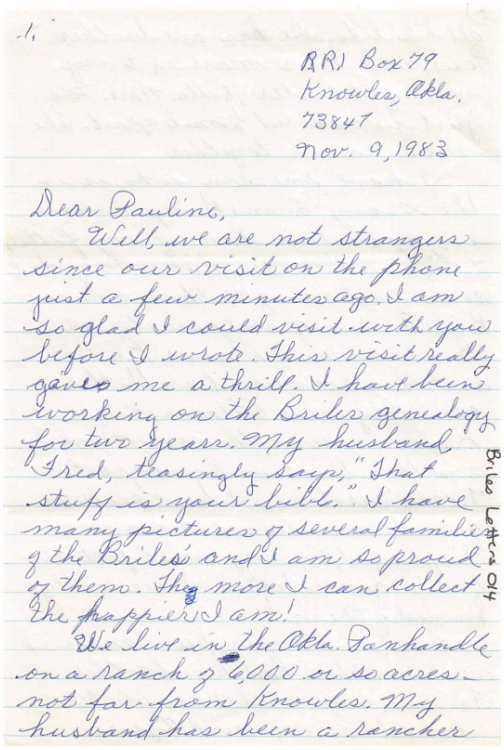
I remained single for almost
16 yr. but later remarried.
I have three sisters and three
brothers that are all living. One
served in World War II with General
Patton in Germany and has been
in very ill health since that time.
My youngest brother served in
World War II too but was never sent over
seas. My oldest brother, oldest in

4
our family, will be 72 yr. old in Feb.
I have a will (not typed well) made
by my Great Great Grandfather Noah
Sr. of Randolph Co. North Carolina. I
am including one of these, also some
information and pictures of Ernie
Briles, senator from Stafford Co.
Perhaps you will be interested in
this.
I phoned Lulu (Briles) Cope, after I
talked to you and she said she’d
like to see me very much. Does she
not have children? I looked in
the genealogy book and I couldn’t
find her family listed. If she
doesn’t have a family I am very
sad for her. I am certain
she is lonely.
I got acquainted with a Fern
(Briles) Chaffee through old letters
that were given to me by the
daughters of the last member of
my dad’s family. She, Flossie

Briles Smith died in June of 1982.
She lived at Lansing, Kans.
5
Fern lost her son in Korean War,
then her husband, also the last
member of her family, her daughter
Catherine, this last summer. Fern
lives at Chandler, Ok. We took
her to the reunion year before last
and intended to again this last
yr., but there was a mix-up or
misunderstanding that the bus
didn't run on Sat. She was to
meet us at Ponca City. When we
found out the problem it was too
late to make other plans. So sorry about this.
She is very lonely.
I hope you enjoy the little bit I've
sent you on the Briles. I am includ-
ing the will. There is a Minnie B. Kennedy
that still lives near the area that's in
mentioned in this will. The B that
is in Minnie's name stands for
Briles. I wrote to her yesterday and
I am very anxious to hear from
her. She lives with her granddaughter
at Hillsborough, N.C. and she is 82 yr. old.
Max visited her once and he said
he'd like to go again. I hope Fred & I
6
can go with him or them. May said
she is spry and remembers dates
etc. I am very anxious to hear
from her.
Vergie (Briles) Pope lives in
Tulsa, eighty years old, and is
a great granddaughter of the John
and Annis that married and were
1st cousins. I have a picture of them.
He, John, wrote of his trip from N.C.
to Calif. in 1849 to mine gold. He
made $20,000 and returned to N.C.,
married Annis, and went to
Joplin, MO. and bought a farm,
later expanding to become very wealthy.
When I get more copies of his story
I'd like for you to have one. I have
4 pages of it but Max's son failed
to get the 5th page copied.
I'll close, and it's been so
good to visit with you. I'd
love to hear from you,
if you are able. Do you have a
picture of you, your husband & family?
I'll pay for all expenses of the negatives.
7
or pictures developed for me. If I have
any picture you might like of my
dad's family. I'll be happy to get you
pictures.
Oh, yes, I wanted to tell you that
Vergie has a 1st cousin (their
mothers were sisters) that lives
in Colorado Springs, Co. I write
to her and call once in a while.
There is a Ray B. Briles in Oak-
land, was an investigator for
Wells Fargo bank for 30 yr., now
retired. I write to him (Larken Briles
father).

There is also a Ray E. Briles
in Santa Cruz, Calif. I have gotten
acquainted with him & Nora.
Well, I say good by for now
and may God bless and keep
you in good health. Tell your
daughter “Hello.”
Love,
Mildred & Fred Barby
8
Ernie E. Briles looks like my
father, Leonidus Harrison Briles,
who was named after
Ernie’s dad, Harrison.

Letter was transcribed with the help of ChatGPT.



1.

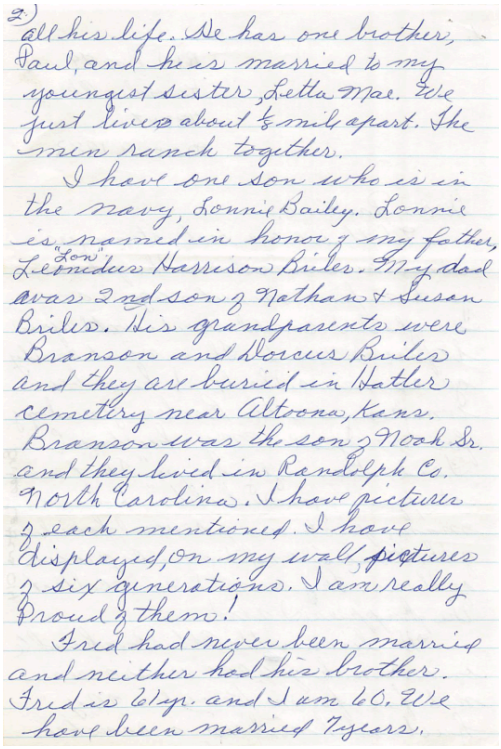
RR1 Box 79
Knowles, Okla.
73847
Nov. 9, 1983

Dear Pauline,

Well, we are not strangers since our visit on the phone just a few minutes ago. I am so glad I could visit with you before I wrote. This visit really gave me a thrill. I have been working on the Briles genealogy for two years. My husband, Fred, teasingly says, "That stuff is your bible." I have many pictures of several families of the Briles' and I am so proud of them. The more I can collect the happier I am!

We live in the Okla. Panhandle on a ranch of 6,000 or so acres - not far from Knowles. My husband has been a rancher

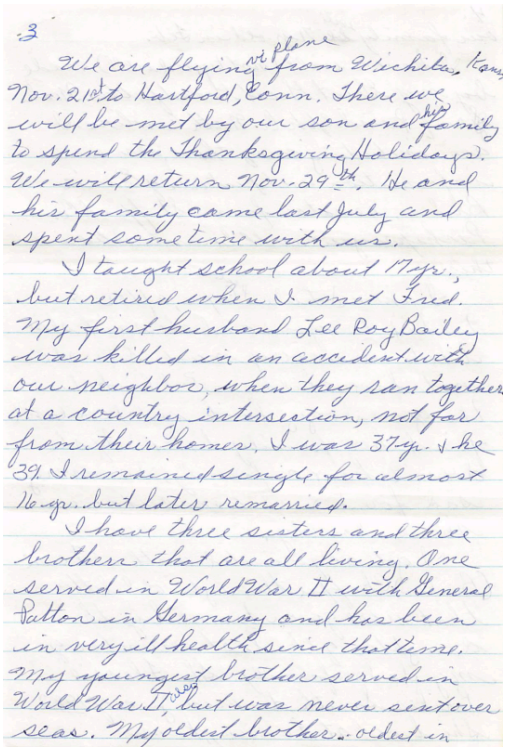
Briles Letters 014



2)
all his life. He has one brother, Paul, and he is married to my youngest sister, Letta Mae. We just live about ½ mile apart. The men ranch together.

I have one son who is in the navy, Lonnie Bailey. Lonnie is named in honor of my father, Leonidus Harrison Briles. "Lon" My dad was 2nd son of Nathan & Susan Briles. His grandparents were Branson and Dorcus Briles and they are buried in Hatler cemetery near Altoona, Kans. Branson was the son of Noah Sr. and they lived in Randolph Co. North Carolina. I have pictures of each mentioned. I have displayed, on my wall, pictures of six generations. I am really proud of them!

Fred had never been married and neither had his brother. Fred is 61 yr. and I am 60. We have been married 7 years.

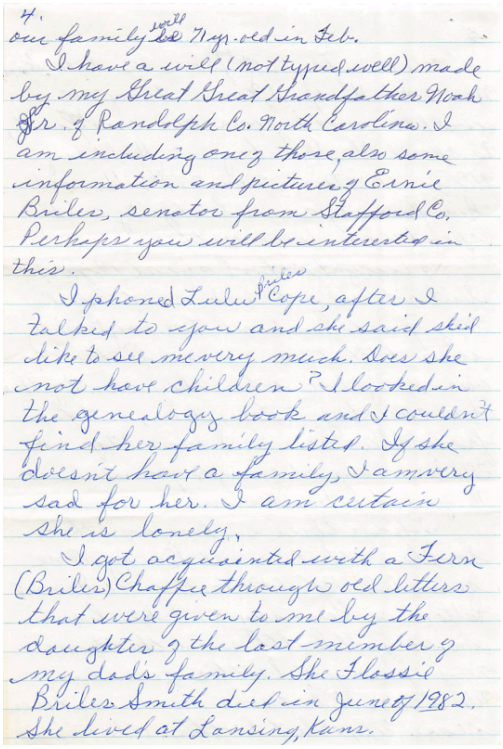


3

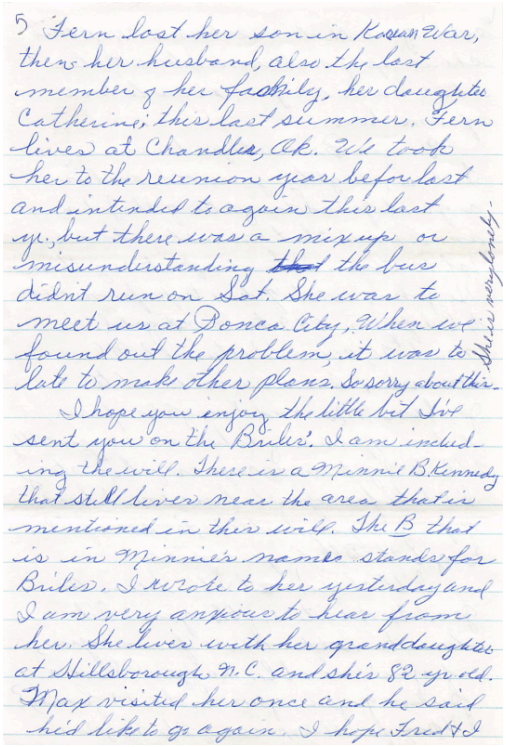
We are flying via plane from Wichita, Kans Nov. 21st to Hartford, Conn. There we will be met by our son and his family to spend the Thanksgiving Holidays. We will return Nov. 29th. He and his family came last July and spent some time with us.

I taught school about 17 yr., but retired when I met Fred. My first husband Lee Roy Bailey was killed in an accident with our neighbor, when they ran together at a country intersection, not far from their homes. I was 37 yr. & he 39. I remained single for almost 16 yr. but later remarried.

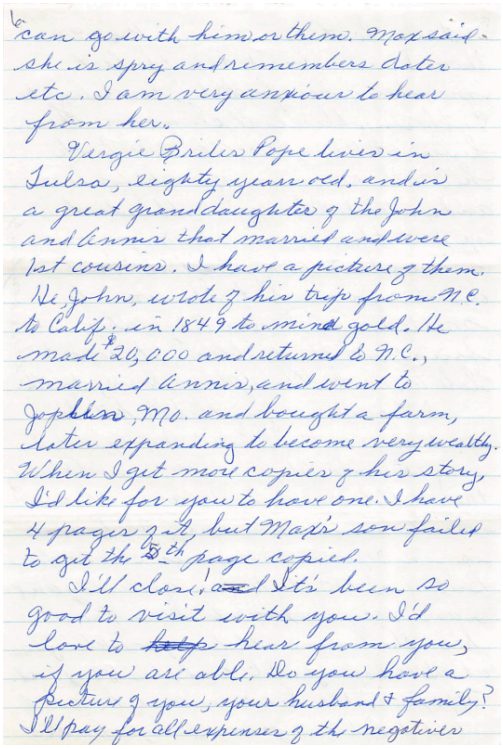
I have three sisters and three brothers that are all living. One served in World War II with General Patton in Germany and has been in very ill health since that time. My youngest brother served in World War II, but was never sent over seas. My oldest brother - oldest in



4.
our family will be 77yr. old in Feb.
I have a will (not typed well) made by my Great Great Grandfather Noah Sr. of Randolph Co. North Carolina. I am including one of those, also some information and pictures of Ernie Briles, senator from Stafford Co. Perhaps you will be interested in this.
I phoned Lulu Briles Cope, after I talked to you and she said she'd like to see me very much. Does she not have children? I looked in the genealogy book and I couldn't find her family listed. If she doesn't have a family, I am very sad for her. I am certain she is lonely.
I got acquainted with a Fern (Briles) Chaffee through old letters that were given to me by the daughter of the last member of my dad's family. She Flossie Briles Smith died in June of 1982. She lived at Lansing, Kans.



5 Fern lost her son in Korean War, then her husband, also the last member of her family, her daughter Catherine this last summer. Fern lives at Chandler, Ok. We took her to the reunion year before last and intended to again this last yr, but there was a mixup or misunderstanding that the bus didn't run on Sat. She was to meet us at Ponca City. When we found out the problem, it was to late to make other plans. So sorry about this. She was lonely.
I hope you enjoy the little bit I've sent you on the Briles'. I am including the will. There is a Minnie B Kennedy that still lives near the area that is mentioned in the will. The B that is in Minnie's names stands for Briles. I wrote to her yesterday and I am very anxious to hear from her. She lives with her granddaughter at Hillsborough N.C. and she's 82 yr old. Max visited her once and he said he'd like to go again. I hope Fred & I



can go with him or them. Max said she is spry and remembers dates etc. I am very anxious to hear from her.

Virgie Briles Pope lives in Tulsa, eighty years old, and is a great granddaughter of the John and Annie that married and were 1st cousins. I have a picture of them. He John, wrote of his trip from N.C. to Calif. in 1849 to mine gold. He made $20,000 and returned to N.C., married Annie, and went to Jophlin, Mo. and bought a farm, later expanding to become very wealthy. When I get more copies of her story, I'd like for you to have one. I have 4 pages of it, but Max's son failed to get the 5th page copied.

I'll close, and it's been so good to visit with you. I'd love to ~~help~~ hear from you, if you are able. Do you have a picture of you, your husband & family? I'll pay for all expenses of the negatives

2

or pictures developed for me. If I have any pictures you might like of my dad's family, I'd be happy to get you pictures.

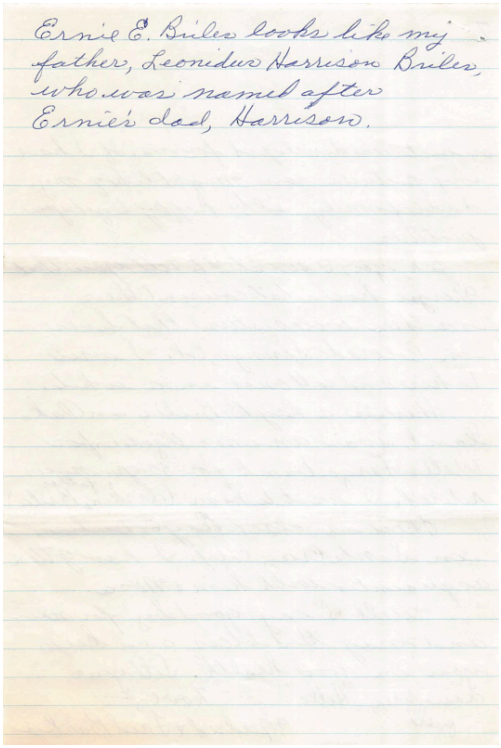
Oh, yes, I wanted to tell you that Virgie has a 1st cousin (their mothers were sisters) that lives in Colorado Springs, Col. I write to her and call one in a while.

There is a Ray B. Briles in Oakland, was an investigator for Wells Fargo bank for 30 yr. now retired. I write to him. (Darken, father Briles)

There is, also a Ray E. Briles in Santa Cruz, Calif. I have gotten acquainted with him & Nora.

Well I say good by for now and may God bless and keep you in good health. Tell your daughter "Hello" Love,

over Mildred & Fred Barby


Ernie C. Biles looks like my
father, Leonidus Harrison Biles,
who was named after
Ernie's dad, Harrison.

DNA Mystery

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 8, 2025
Crawford,Kentucky,Preble County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/08/dna-mystery-2/

Do you have any nagging questions about relationships in your genealogy research?

I certainly do — and one of my biggest is whether Mary (who married James Sellers) and Sarah (who married William Sellers) Crawford could be sisters of my ancestor James Crawford (1772–1854), instead of sisters of the James Crawford (1770–1833) who married Martha Knight.

In 1791, Rebekah Crawford, guardian of Mary Crawford, gave permission for Mary to marry James Sellers. This affidavit was witnessed by James Crawford and William Sellers and was recorded in Lincoln County, Kentucky. At the time, Rebekah owned land on the dividing ridge between Boons Mill Creek and Sugar Creek, an area now part of Garrard County.

In 1793, James Crawford married Martha Knight in Lincoln County. Martha's guardian, John Goodpastor, gave permission for the marriage, with James Sellers and Samuel Sellers as witnesses.

Then, in 1796, Rebekah Crawford again gave consent, this time for the marriage of Sarah Crawford to William Sellers. This affidavit was witnessed by James Crawford and James Sellers.

In 1799, another James Crawford married Sally Duggins (widow of Alexander Duggins) in Garrard County, with James Sellers serving as guarantor on the marriage bond.

By 1816, William Sellers received a land patent in Preble County, Ohio, as a tenant in common with James Crawford. Ohio land records confirm that this James Crawford was the one married to Sally Duggins.

Here's where it gets more complicated:

- The two James Crawfords were only about two years apart in age.
- They owned adjacent land in Preble County, Ohio.
- Their descendants migrated to the same regions for over 100 years.

Based on the marriage affidavits, Mary and Sarah Crawford have long been believed to be daughters of Rebekah Crawford, along with the James Crawford who married Martha Knight. Rebekah's husband — and presumed father of these children — is believed to be John Crawford, brother of James Crawford who owned land on Paint Lick Creek. BigY DNA results support this interpretation.

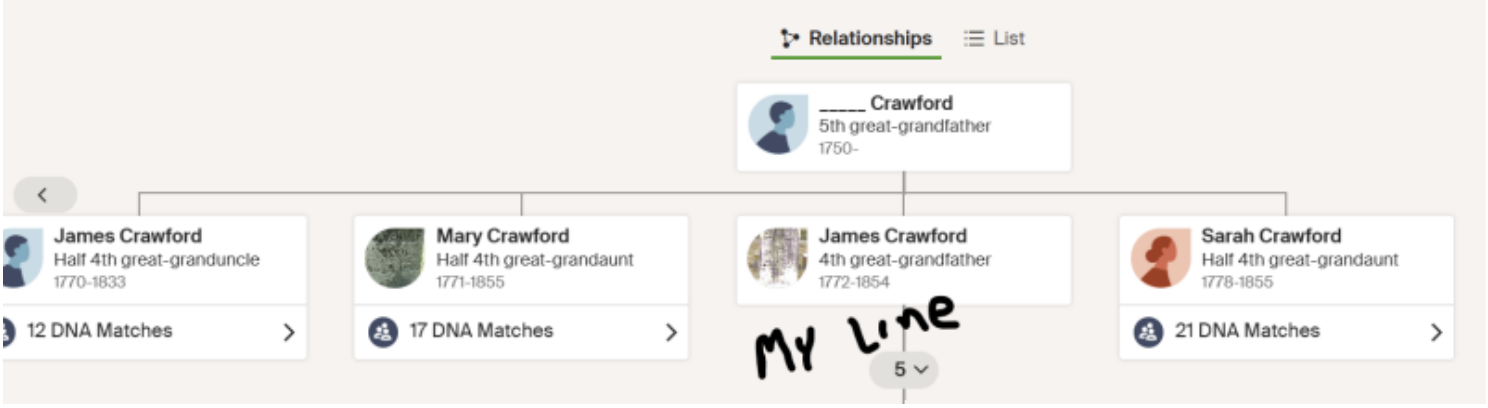
However, my ancestor James Crawford (who married Sally Duggins) and the James Crawford married to Martha Knight cannot be brothers, given their similar ages. According to the Crawford DNA project administrator, BigY results also do not support them being first

cousins.

This raises a big question: Why do I have numerous DNA matches who descend from James Sellers or William Sellers? Could Mary and Sarah actually be sisters of *my* James Crawford rather than of the James married to Martha Knight? (If so, our common ancestor would be eight generations back.)

With no clear documentary evidence to distinguish between the two James Crawfords in Kentucky, I decided to try an unconventional approach. I temporarily added Sarah and Mary as sisters to my James Crawford in my tree and assigned John Crawford (1748–1779) as his father. Then, I let Ancestry's ThruLines work its magic.

To my surprise, ThruLines didn't just identify descendants of Mary Crawford Sellers and Sarah Crawford Sellers in my match list — it also found descendants of James Crawford and Martha Knight among my DNA matches!



While pinpointing the exact common ancestor may remain challenging, these matches provide valuable clues. They can help me identify other connected matches and may offer hints about where to search for additional records to untangle this mystery.

Conclusion
Exploring these DNA connections has opened new possibilities and raised even more questions about the Crawford and Sellers families. While I may not have all the answers yet, each new clue brings me closer to understanding these relationships. I look forward to continuing this journey, and I welcome insights or suggestions from anyone researching these lines. Together, we might finally unravel this long-standing mystery.

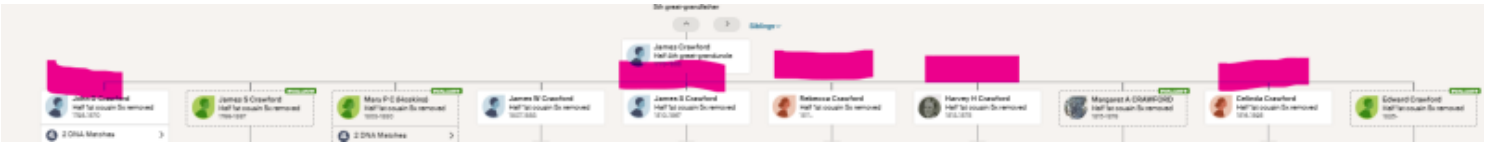
DNA Mystery Part 2

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 9, 2025
Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/09/dna-mystery-part-2/

If you've ever explored your DNA results on Ancestry, you know that ThruLines can offer both exciting discoveries and unexpected puzzles. In my ongoing effort to understand my relationship to James (Mary Crawford) Sellers and William (Sarah Crawford) Sellers, I stumbled upon something surprising: suggested DNA connections to James Crawford and Martha Knight Crawford — a couple who are *not* my ancestors.

Because I've spent years researching various Crawford lines, I was intrigued (and a bit skeptical) when these suggested lines appeared. What followed was a dive into wills, family trees, and shared DNA matches to sort out these unexpected ThruLines hints.

My unorthodox attempt to figure out my relationship to James (Mary Crawford) Sellers and William (Sarah Crawford) Sellers led me to some surprising DNA results. Not only did I find matches for these Sellers lines, but I also discovered supposed DNA matches for descendants of James Crawford and Martha Knight Crawford — who are *not* my ancestors.



Because I've researched the family of James and Martha Crawford extensively, I already had some of their descendants in my tree. In my ThruLines, lines I've researched are shown as solid white blocks, while suggested lines appear surrounded by dashed lines. By evaluating these "matches," I was able to rule out most suggestions, thanks to James Crawford's will, which clearly identifies his children:

Daughters:

- Celinda
- Rebecca
- Nancy
- Polly Swant
- Betty Lincoln
- Sally Shanklin

Sons:

- Harvey H.
- John D.
- William A.
- James S.

Using the will, I eliminated many of the suggested descendant lines. This left five children as possible lines: Rebecca, James S., Harvey H., and Celinda.

Rebecca

- **Shared DNA:** 7 cM
  The suggested line through Rebecca might be possible, but I couldn't find sources confirming the connection to the proposed children. Instead, I found a tree tracing back to Alexander and Mary McPheeters Crawford.

James S. (Sellers) Crawford

- **Shared DNA:** 6 cM
  This line passes through James S. Crawford's daughter, Meranda J. Crawford. However, I couldn't find any evidence connecting Meranda to the suggested child. In fact, FamilySearch lists her as Meranda Wood. Although I suspect they might be two different individuals, I haven't been able to confirm this with records.

Harvey H. Crawford

- **Shared DNA:** 11 cM
  I was able to verify this line down to my DNA match.

Celinda Crawford

- **Shared DNA:** 46 cM
  I verified the tree down to my match. Because I share a larger segment of DNA with this match, I looked at all 11 pages of shared matches. These included:
- Matches with trees tracing back to the **Kennedy family** of Garrard County, KY — a family I do not have a known connection to.
- Matches descending from my ancestors **James Crawford and Sally Smith Duggins**.
- A match tracing back to **William Nelson Crawford**, believed to be a grandson of James and Martha Crawford through their son John D. Notably, BigY results place his descendants in the same haplogroup as a descendant of James and Martha.
- Matches with the **Maxwell surname**.
- A match going back to my 2nd great-grandparents, **Washington Marion Crawford and Mary Foster**.
- Matches related to various **Sellers lines**.

Since we share over 40 cM of DNA, it is likely we connect on more than one line — though the exact connections aren't clear.

John D. Crawford

I also have two matches (sharing 17 cM and 15 cM) who trace their lines back to **William Nelson Crawford**, believed to be a grandson of James and Martha Crawford. These matches not only connect to me but also match descendants of James and Martha's son, William Allen Crawford. In addition, their BigY tests place them in the same haplogroup as a descendant of William Allen Crawford.

Final Thoughts

While it will take more time to evaluate these suggested lines thoroughly, I'm confident that the lines back to James and Martha Crawford are not accurate for my ancestry. Nor do I believe these lines connect to my James Crawford and his wife Sally Smith Duggins.

Although these ThruLines matches were unexpected, they do not prove a biological connection to James and Martha Crawford. However, they may offer valuable hints that could help uncover the parents of my James Crawford.

Dooley Survey

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 10, 2025
Crawford,Dooley,Garrard County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/10/dooley-survey/

Does your research take you to early Kentucky?

If so, have you explored the early survey records? I'm fortunate that the surveys for Garrard County, Kentucky, were compiled in the excellent book *Back of the Cane* by Fred Logan Simpson.

One of the entries in this book features a member of my Crawford FAN Club: Moses Dooley. Not only does this two-page entry provide detailed information about his land, but it also offers rich insights into Moses Dooley's life and community connections. With ChatGPT's help, I extracted a timeline of events from these pages.

Timeline of Moses Dooley

Before 1779–1780

- Lived in Bedford County, Virginia.
- Served as a Captain in the Bedford County Militia during the American Revolution.

1779 or 1780

- Migrated from Bedford County, Virginia, to Kentucky (then still Virginia territory).

November 20, 1779

- Treasury Warrant No. 1811 issued to James Buford, later assigned to Moses Dooley.

April 26, 1780

- Made his initial land entry for 50 acres near Downing's Station, but this was later withdrawn in favor of a larger tract.

May 26, 1780

- Entered 500 acres on Sugar Creek in what was then Lincoln County (now Garrard County), adjoining John Downing's entry on the east.

January 15, 1783

- Survey completed for the 500-acre tract by William Henry and James Thompson.

June 15, 1784

- Grant officially issued for 500 acres to Moses Dooley.

Around 1780s–1790s

- Became an early Baptist preacher in the Sugar Creek area.
- Associated with other Baptist preachers such as Richard Cave and Feathergill Adams.
- Helped establish the Old Sugar Creek Meeting House, likely contributing to the early religious community there.

1797

- Deeded a ridge running down to Sugar Creek to Feathergill Adams.
- This was the first deed recorded in Garrard County (Deed Book A, page 1).

Circa 1800

- Moved from Garrard County to Barren County, Kentucky.
- His sons, Reubin and Thomas Dooley, became Baptist ministers and later active in the Christian Church movement.

1818

- Went on a preaching tour to Preble County, Ohio, with Samuel Rogers, a noted minister who later became a Campbellite leader.

Later years

- Remembered as a very pious and good old man by fellow ministers and religious historians.

Besides the timeline, the entry also provides a glimpse into other early Baptist preachers in Kentucky. Here's a summary of those preachers and their activities:

List of Preachers

Moses Dooley

- **Where:** Sugar Creek area (present-day Garrard County, Kentucky), later Barren County, Kentucky; also on a preaching tour to Preble County, Ohio.
- **When:**
  - Around 1780s–1790s in Garrard County.
  - Moved to Barren County in 1800.
  - Preaching tour to Ohio in 1818.
- **Notes:** Early Baptist preacher; helped establish Old Sugar Creek Meeting House; described as pious and influential.

Richard Cave

- **Where:** Sugar Creek area, adjoining Moses Dooley's survey.
- **When:** Late 1700s (exact dates not specified but contemporaneous with Dooley).
- **Notes:** Another early Baptist preacher; his land joined Dooley's.

Feathergill Adams

- **Where:** Sugar Creek area, to the east of Dooley.
- **When:** Settled by 1797 (when Dooley deeded him land).
- **Notes:** Baptist preacher; received land deed from Dooley in 1797.

Randolph Hall

- **Where:** Northwest corner of Moses Dooley's survey (Sugar Creek area), also preached at Forks of Dick's River.
- **When:** Just before Dooley left for Barren County (around 1800).
- **Notes:** Revived the Old Sugar Creek congregation; later buried with his wife in the church yard.

Samuel Rogers

- **Where:** Preble County, Ohio (on a preaching tour with Dooley).
- **When:** 1818.
- **Notes:** Later became a Campbellite and follower of Barton W. Stone.

Additional Context

- **Old Sugar Creek Meeting House:**
  - One of the first congregations to feel stirrings of the Reformation movement.
  - Later influenced members who moved to Missouri Territory and became leaders in the early Christian Church movement.

Conclusion

Exploring Moses Dooley's timeline and the network of early preachers in Kentucky reveals much more than land surveys and property grants — it uncovers the vibrant story of faith, community building, and migration on the early frontier. By tracing these records, we gain insight into how families like the Dooleys shaped not only the physical landscape but also the religious and social fabric of early Kentucky and beyond. If your research leads you into early Kentucky, I encourage you to look beyond the land entries and discover the stories of the people who helped settle and shape these communities. You never know what connections you might uncover in your own FAN club.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 11, 2025
Briles,Wells,Woodson_County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/11/friday-find-85/

Today's Friday Find comes from a set of Woodson County, Kansas records generously transcribed by researcher Betty J. Wasmer. Her work includes details from the county's birth, death, and marriage indexes—valuable resources for anyone tracing early Kansas families. Below isthe marriage and death events she recorded, offering a glimpse into several generations of the Mentzer, Wells, and related families.

Woodson Co. Ks Marriages — og 22

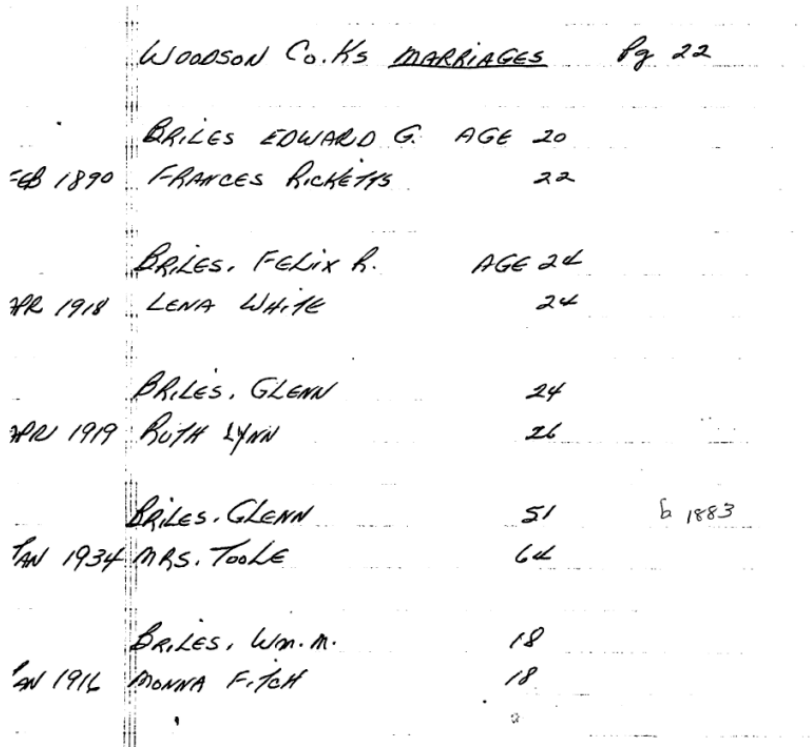
BRILES, Edward G. age 20
Feb 1890
Frances Ricketts, age 22

BRILES, Felix R. age 24
Apr 1918
Lena White, age 24

BRILES, GlLenn, age 24
Apr 1919
Ruty Lynn age 21 (or 26)

BRILES, Glenn, age 51
Jan 1934
Mrs. Toole, age 64

BRILES, Wm M., age 18
Jan 1916
Monna Fitch, age 18



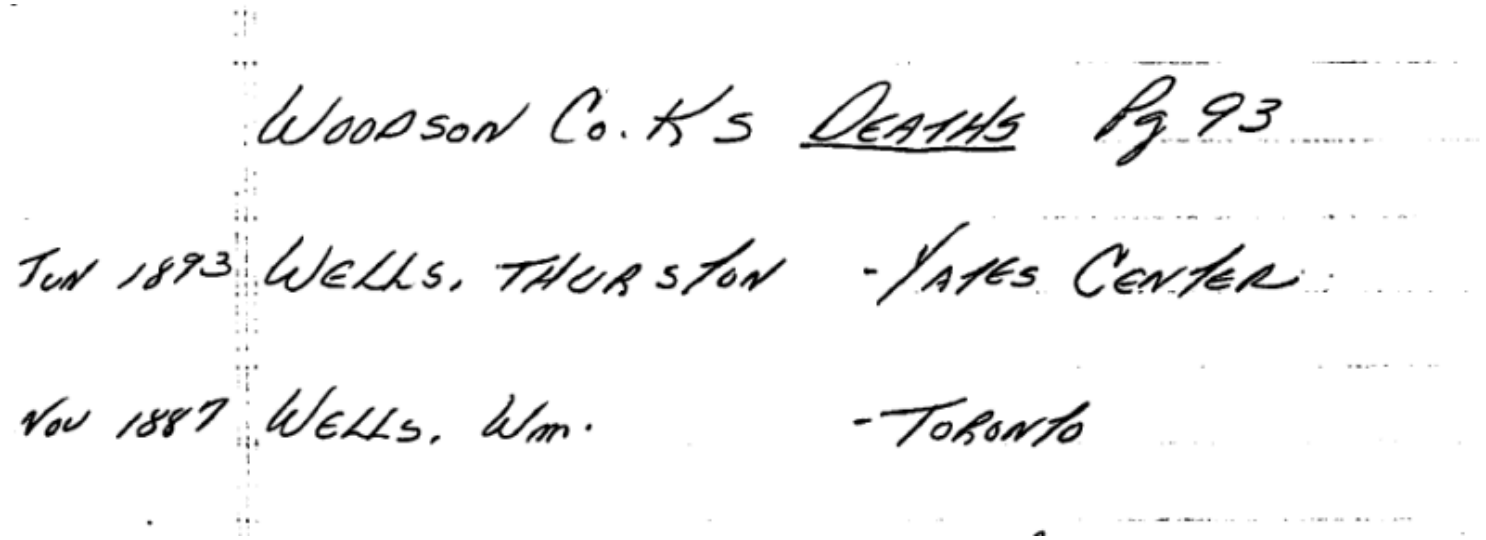
Woodson Co. Ks MARRIAGES Pg 22

	BRILES EDWARD G.	AGE 20	
FEB 1890	FRANCES RICKETTS	22	
	BRILES. FELIX R.	AGE 24	
MAR 1918	LENA WHITE	24	
	BRILES. GLENN	24	
MAR 1919	RUTH LYNN	26	
	BRILES. GLENN	51	b 1883
JAN 1934	MRS. TOOLE	64	
	BRILES, Wm. M.	18	
JAN 1916	MONNA F. TOM	18	

Woodson Co. KS DEATHS page 93

June 81893 WELLS, Thurston – Yates Centr

Nov 1887 Wells, Wm – Toronto



Woodson Co. Ks DEATHS Pg 93

JUN 1893 WELLS. THURSTON - YATES CENTER

NOV 1887 WELLS. Wm. - TORONTO

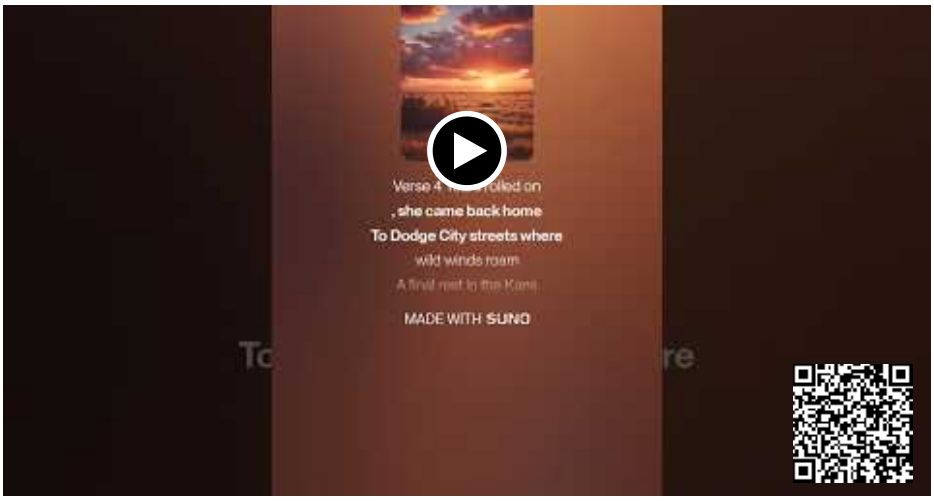
Esther's Song

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 12, 2025
Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/12/esthers-song/

Last week, I shared Esther Crawford's story as a written narrative. Today, as part of my ABC Biography process, I'm excited to share her story in a new and creative way — as a song.

The lyrics for this song were crafted with the help of ChatGPT, drawing from Esther's RootsMagic narrative report. I then used Suno.com to transform those lyrics into a full song, which I downloaded as a video and uploaded to YouTube for easy sharing.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=OCkJ2LHsCTI



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 13, 2025
SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/13/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-162/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!
Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Taneya Koonce wrote a Happy Birthday post about her own life in Quick Tip: Create Your Personal History Timeline – The Birthday Edition 🥳. What great birthday idea.

2) This week, write your own Personal History Timeline – every 5 or 10 years, or the most important events. If you don't want to do yours, write a History Timeline for one of your ancestors

Age Zero: No memories but photos; first born child of my parents

Age Five: Family has moved to Dodge City. March of that year, the area experienced a major blizzard. My mother was expecting.When the street was blocked by wrecked vehicles, my parents decided to go to my grandparents. According to my father, a neighbor helped carry myself and my brother across a vacant lot to my grandmother's car while my dad carried my mother. Another neighbor carried luggage. While we were staying with my grandparents, the neighbors ran out of milk and cigarettes. My parents told them to 'raid' our house for those 'essentials.'

Age ten: I was a fifth grader at a neighborhood school. A year later, I 'graduated' and was recognized as one of the students who had attended that school since the year it had opened.

Age 15: I graduated 9th grade from a junior high in Lincoln Nebraska. That summer, I had my first date with Steve Richards. We went to the movie, Sound of Music. A month after that date, I had moved to another state.

Age 20: I was a chemistry major at the Kansas State Teachers College. I attended an American Chemical Society conference in St. Louis.

Age 25: My husband and I celebrated our third wedding anniversary. My husband was teaching chemistry and physics at Nemaha Valley High School I was in my 3rd year on the NVHS staff where I taught biology. During the summer, I was attending graduate school, working on a degree in library science.

Age 30: I was in my second year as librarian at Nemaha Valley High School. My husband was still teaching chemistry and physics.

Age 35: While still the high school librarian, I had also acquired the role of technology coordinator. That summer, we put in network wiring.

Ages 45 and 55: I continued to work for the school district as librarian, technology coordinator and 'any other job as assigned.' My husband would continue teaching chemistry and physics. He would also assist me in my role as technolgoy coordinator by replacing parts on printers or other tasks involving hardware. I would sponsor several classes during this time, working with them as sophomores to begin raising money, juniors to host the prom and seniors to go on a senior trip and graduate.

Age 65: My husband and I had just finished our first year of retirement. Duing this year, we both resumed our respective genealogy research. I also started volunteering at the local historical society.

Age 70: My genealogy research had expanded to include sharing my research on this blog. I had also joined the hisorical society board.

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 14, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/14/mondays-diggings-6/

Today's item is another letter in my Briles folder from Mildred Barby.

Feb. 20th, 1993
R.R.1 Box 79
Knowles, Ok. 73847
Dear Marcie,
It is good to hear from you again. We think of you often and wonder how you are, hopefully, you two are doing well.
We have been fairly well, but the snow has kept Fred, Paul (his brother) and hired hand working from early morning til late at night, feeding and caring for the new born calves during this time.
I have been needing to see the doctor several times, but had to cancel my appointments, at least 3 times. We went to Dodge City to a specialist last Mon. to see about my throat; yesterday to Laverne to get medication for high blood pressure. I believe I'll be better now.
I may be sending you information of what I have already sent or you have already.
It looks like to me Anderson Briles may have been born out of wedlock and was given his mother's name (Briles) and raised in grandfather, John Briles' home, but I guess one can't go on a guess. I don't know the real fact.
I have never written to Harriet E. Briles and I've had this for quite some time. I don't know if you want to inquire about your question or not, but she may have found out about it.
We had a nice time at the last Briles Reunion. Hope you can come see us at the next one. We missed seeing you and Mike, maybe we can compare our notes.
We saw Betty and Myran Rush there at the reunion. He is related to Dorcus and Sarah Rush. He lives at Iola, Ks.
Well, I have been feeling so badly and I am afraid I have not given you much help. Please excuse my mistakes.
Let me know if you find out
(over)

more about Anderson. I'd also like to have a copy of what your folks found out.
Love,
Mickey & Fred
Barby
Have I sent this written material, also pictures before?

Feb. 20th 1993
R.R.1 Box 79
Knowles, Ok. 73847

Dear Marcie,

It is good to hear from you again. We think of you often and wonder how you are, Hopefully, you two are doing well.

We have been fairly well, but the snow has kept Fred, Paul (his brother), and hired hand working from early morning til late at night, feeding and caring for the new-born calves during this time.

I have been needing to see the doctor several times, but had to cancel my appointments, at least 3 times. We went to Dodge City to a specialist last Mon. to see about my throat; yesterday to Laverne to get medication for high blood pressure. I believe I'll be better now.

I may be sending you information of what I have already sent or you have already.

Briles Letter 032

3

It looks like to me Anderson Briles may have been born out of Wedlock and was given his mother's name (Briles) and raised in grandfather, John Briles' home, but I guess one can't go on a guess. I don't know the real fact.

I have never written to Harriet E. Briles and I've had this for quite some time. I don't know if you want to inquire about your question or not, but she may have found out about it.

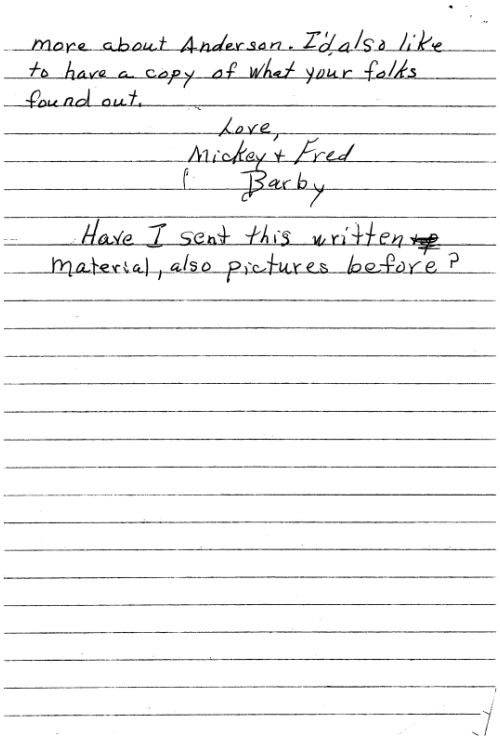
We had a nice time at the last Briles' Reunion. Hope you can come see us at the next one. We missed seeing you and Mike, maybe we can compaire our notes.

We saw Betty and Myran Rush there at the reunion. He is related to Dorcus and Sarah Rush. He lives a Iola, Ks.

Well, I have been feeling so badly and I am afraid I have not given you much help. Please excuse my mistakes.

Let me know if you find out

(over)



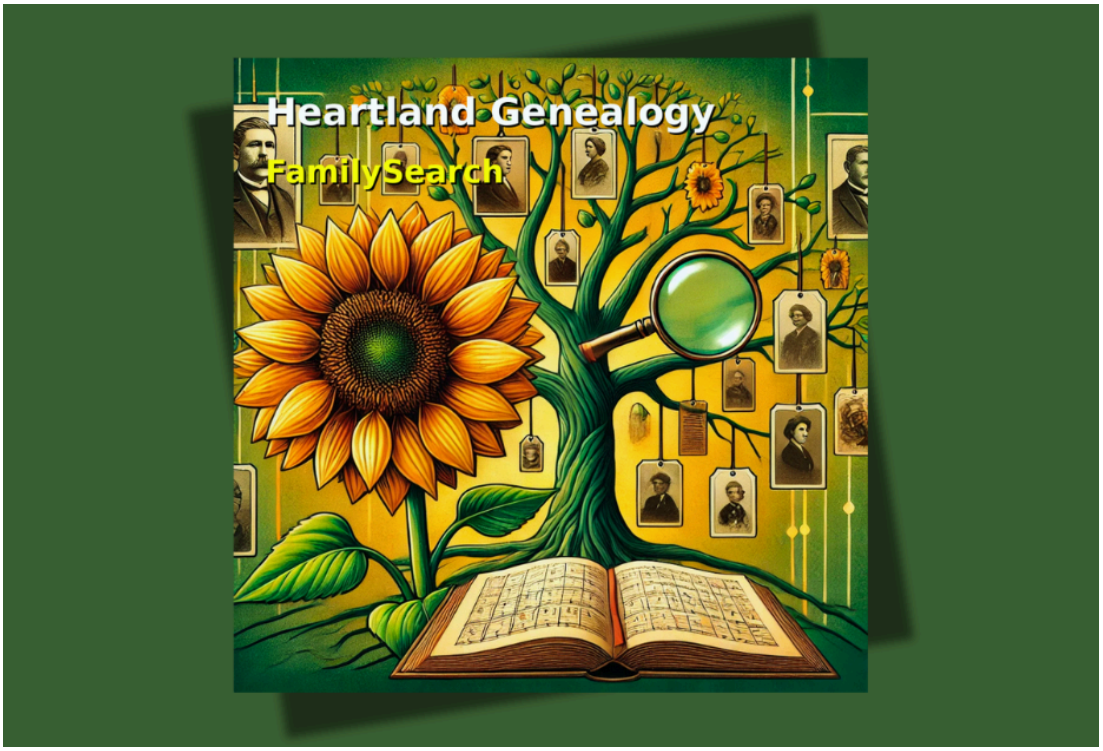
more about Anderson. I'd also like to have a copy of what your folks found out.

Love,
Mickey + Fred
Barby

Have I sent this written material, also pictures before?

Comment to Sources

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 15, 2025
Dooley,Kentucky
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/15/comment-to-sources/



As genealogists, we often think of progress as coming from big discoveries — a long-lost record, a DNA match, or an unexpected photograph. But sometimes, it's the smallest clues that open the biggest doors. One overlooked feature that can spark these discoveries is the humble comment section on online trees.

While many of us focus on adding sources and attaching records, the ability to leave or read comments on profiles (especially on collaborative platforms like FamilySearch) can lead to new evidence, overlooked resources, and even entirely new research paths.

In this post, I'll share how one comment on FamilySearch didn't just clarify a relationship — it led me to family genealogies, church histories, and the fascinating story of a major religious revival in early Kentucky.

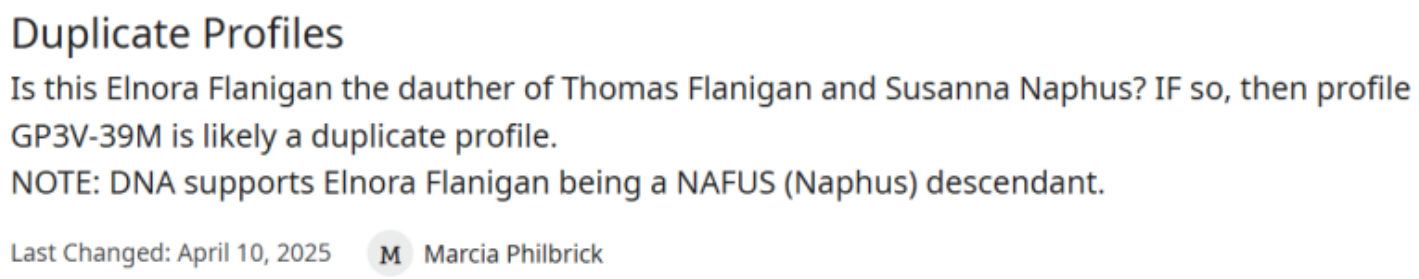
Do you use the comment feature on your Ancestry tree? Have you ever added a note or started a discussion on the FamilySearch tree?

I'll admit, I often forget to add comments on my own Ancestry tree. However, I do regularly use the discussion and note features on FamilySearch.

I find these comments especially helpful when I'm working on collateral lines—those extended family members who aren't my direct ancestors. Rather than making changes outright, I prefer to raise questions or share evidence through comments, inviting collaboration and discussion.

For example, I recently came across two profiles for an Elnora Flanigan on FamilySearch that appeared to represent the same person:

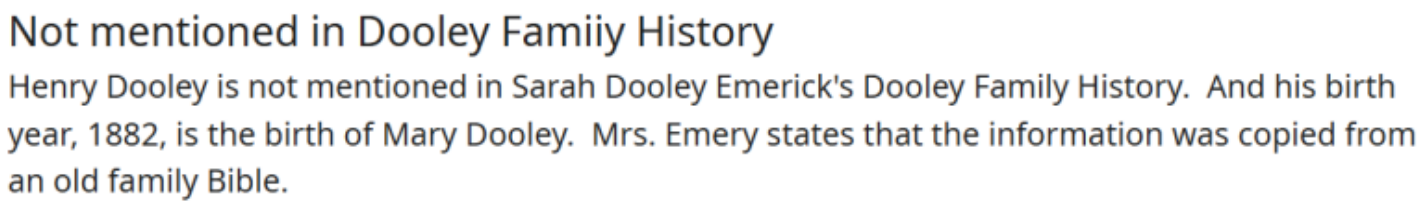
- Elnora Flanigan – GP3V-39M
- Elnora Flanigan – L8QL-JDJ


Duplicate Profiles
Is this Elnora Flanigan the dauther of Thomas Flanigan and Susanna Naphus? IF so, then profile GP3V-39M is likely a duplicate profile.
NOTE: DNA supports Elnora Flanigan being a NAFUS (Naphus) descendant.
Last Changed: April 10, 2025
M
Marcia Philbrick

Since Elnora isn't a direct ancestor, I chose to leave a comment on one of her profiles rather than merge the records myself.

Because I make a habit of leaving comments, I also make a point to read them. While researching Moses Dooley, Sr.—a member of my Crawford FAN club—I noticed that the FamilySearch tree listed a son, Henry Dooley (b. 1786). However, Henry wasn't included in Moses Dooley's biography in *A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution.*

Curious, I checked Henry's FamilySearch profile and found a comment questioning his parentage and, crucially, citing a source!


Not mentioned in Dooley Famiiy History
Henry Dooley is not mentioned in Sarah Dooley Emerick's Dooley Family History. And his birth year, 1882, is the birth of Mary Dooley. Mrs. Emery states that the information was copied from an old family Bible.

This led me to two genealogies by Mrs. Sarah Dooley Emerick, available through the FamilySearch Digital Library.

Browsing these books, I discovered references to the New Light Church, which sparked a new line of research. A quick Google search for:

> +Dooley +"new light church" +Kentucky +history

brought me to a biography of Moses' son Reuben, which also included insights into Moses' life and photographs of family tombstones.

- Dooley – History of the Refomration Movement

From there, I followed threads on the church history in Kentucky, exploring connections to the Restoration Movement and the famous Cane Ridge Revival. These searches opened the door to a wealth of sources:

- Wikipedia – Restoration Movement
- New Georgia Enclyopedia – Restoration Movement
- Wikipedia – Cane Ridge Revival
- Disciples Wiki – Cane Ridge Revival
- Kentucky Revival: Selected Core Documents
- Revival Library – 1801 Cane Ridge Revival

While browsing these resources, I began to wonder if any of my own ancestors had attended the revival. My James Crawford lived near the Dooley family in Madison and Barren counties, Kentucky, before both families migrated to Preble County, Ohio. It's entirely possible he was there.

My ancestor Hiram M. Currey was a Baptist pastor in the 1790s, although it seems the Baptists may have attended their own meeting at the Elkhorn Baptist Association nearby.

Another possible connection: Richard Foster's brother, Rev. John Foster, a Methodist minister living in Ross County, Ohio—could he have traveled to Cane Ridge?

Even Alexander Crawford (who married Mary McPheeters and isn't my direct ancestor) piqued my interest. His son, Rev. James Crawford, served as a Presbyterian minister at Walnut Hill Church near Lexington, Kentucky. Given his proximity, he likely attended the revival.

Ultimately, one simple comment not only helped clarify that Henry Dooley should be removed from Moses Dooley Sr.'s family, but also led me to detailed Dooley genealogies and an entire web of resources on Kentucky church history.

What started as a simple comment on a FamilySearch profile turned into a rich journey through genealogies, church histories, and Kentucky revivals — all sparked by one small question. This experience reminded me of the value of pausing to read (and leave) comments, even on collateral lines or profiles we don't manage directly.

By engaging with these discussions, we not only help clarify family trees for others but also uncover new records, connect with unexpected sources, and deepen our understanding of the historical context surrounding our ancestors.

Next time you come across a comment or feel the urge to leave one, don’t hesitate — you never know where that thread might lead.

Captain Moses Dooley

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 16, 2025
Dooley,Kentucky
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/16/captain-moses-dooley/

Captain Moses Dooley was born in 1748 in Bedford (then Augusta), Virginia, on the edge of the American frontier.[1,2,4] Around 1771, he married Mary Boyd, also of Bedford County.[5,31] Together they raised a family that included Reuben Dooley, born 14 November 1773 at Elk Creek, Bedford County.[5,7]

During the Revolutionary War, Moses served as a captain in the Bedford County militia. His patriotic service is recognized by the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution.[5]

By 1779, Moses was living in Bedford County, but by 1780 he began venturing west, first appearing in Madison County, Virginia, that year.[8] In the same period, Moses began acquiring land in Kentucky, receiving a survey for 500 acres on Sugar Creek in Lincoln County on 26 May 1780.[5,8] He returned briefly to Bedford in 1781, but by 1783 had filed land entry papers for his Kentucky holdings and officially received his 500-acre grant in 1784.[10,11]

A devout and active religious leader, Moses helped establish the Old Sugar Creek Meeting House in what is today Garrard County, Kentucky, serving as one of the area's earliest Baptist preachers.[8] His faith journey led him into the early Restoration Movement alongside his son Reuben. Both men are believed to have participated in the famous Cane Ridge Revival in 1801, a landmark event that gave momentum to the movement seeking to restore New Testament Christianity and unite believers.[3]

In 1789, Moses was recorded in Madison County, Kentucky.[12] By December 1798, he was filing land entries in Green County.[13] Tax records document his presence in Barren County from 1800 through 1806.[8,14–22]

Around 1814, Moses moved to Preble County, Ohio, where he continued his religious and civic activities.[23] He appeared on the tax rolls there from 1816 to 1822.[24–29] Moses died on 12 January 1822 at the age of 74 in Eaton, Preble County.[4,6,9] He was buried in Friendship Cemetery in Sugar Valley.[4] His name appeared on the tax rolls in 1823, likely reflecting posthumous estate matters.[30]

Mary Boyd Dooley, born in 1752 in Bedford County, died on 7 January 1819 in Washington Township, Preble County.[5,9] She was buried in Sugar Valley. Together, Moses and Mary not only raised a family but also left a strong legacy of faith and frontier leadership, deeply shaping the Baptist and Restorationist communities in Kentucky and Ohio.[3]

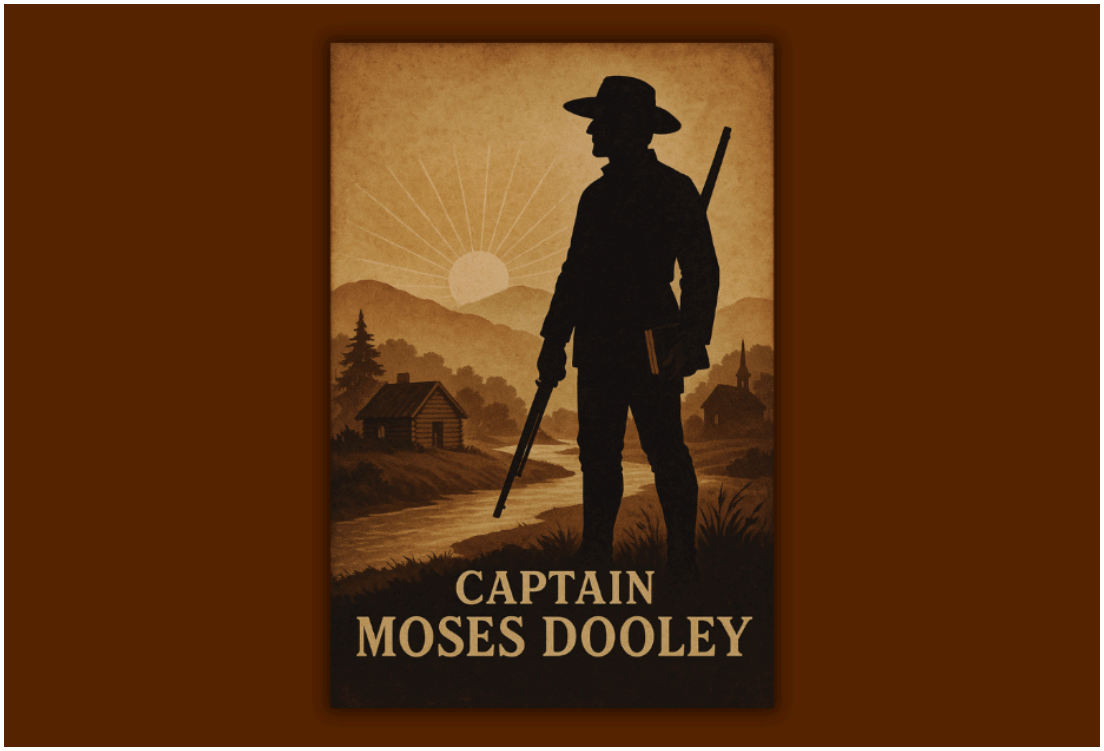
Sources

[1] Mrs. Sarah Dooley Emerick, *History and Family Record of the Dooley Family* (Grant County, Indiana: Mrs. Sarah Dooley Emerick, n.d.), pp. 3–20; FamilySearch.
[2] Mrs. Sarah Dooley Emerick, *History and Family Record of the Dooley Family 1755–1933* (Grant County, Indiana: Mrs. Sarah Dooley

Emerick, 1933), pp. 3–44; FamilySearch.
[3] Scott Harp, “Reuben Dooley / Moses Dooley,” *History of the Restoration Movement* (https://www.therestorationmovement.com/_states/ohio/dooley.htm : viewed 4 July 2025); Disciples of Christ Historical Society, “Cane Ridge Revival” (https://discipleshistory.org/wiki/cane-ridge-revival/ : viewed 4 July 2025).
[4] Find a Grave, Memorial no. 12924125, Moses Dooley; Friendship Cemetery, Sugar Valley, Preble County, Ohio.
[5] *A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution* (Evansville, IN: Indiana DAR, 1976), p. 177; Ancestry.
[6] Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861–1985; Ancestry.
[7] Find a Grave, Memorial no. 12924140, Reuben Dooley; Friendship Cemetery.
[8] Fred Logan Simpson, *Back of the Cane: Early Virginia Surveys in Today’s Garrard County, Kentucky 1775–1789* (Lancaster, KY: Fred Logan Simpson, 1992), pp. 90–91.
[9] “Obituary,” *The Eaton Democrat* (Eaton, Ohio), 19 July 1877, p. 3; Newspapers.com.
[10] Virginia, Land Office Surveys, Book 4, p. 470; FamilySearch.
[11] Simpson, *Back of the Cane*, pp. 90–91.
[12] Kentucky, U.S., Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1787–1890; Ancestry.
[13] Green County, Kentucky, Land Entry Books, 1798; FamilySearch.
[14]–[22] Barren County, Kentucky, Tax Books and Deeds, 1799–1806; FamilySearch.
[23] *History of Preble County, Ohio* (H.Z. Williams & Bro., 1881), p. 135; Archive.org.
[24]–[30] Preble County, Ohio, Duplicate Tax Records, 1816–1823; FamilySearch.
[31] U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560–1900; Ancestry.

Capt. Dooley's Song

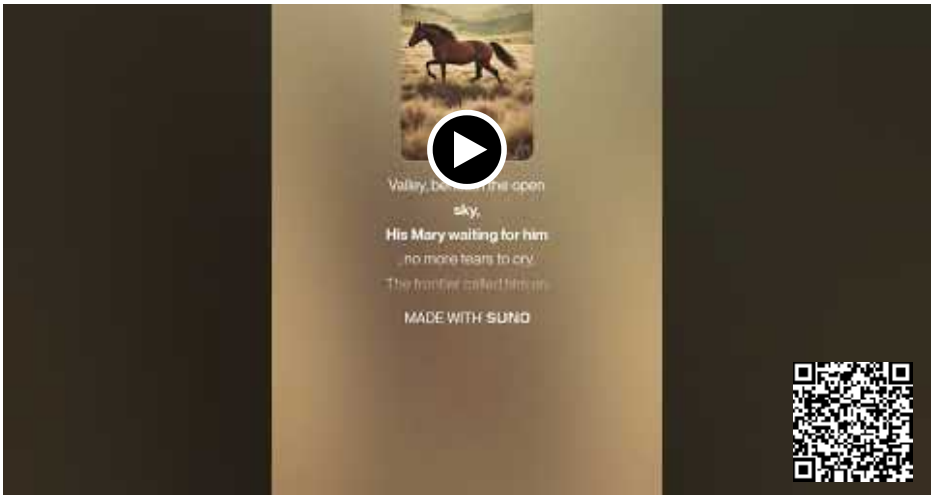
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 17, 2025
Dooley
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/17/capt-dooleys-song/



Have you been following Randy Seaver's explorations with AI? While I haven't tried everything that Randy has shared, I'm inspired by the creative ways he uses technology to tell the stories of the people we research.

Today, I'm excited to share something a little different — an AI-generated song about Captain Moses Dooley, a member of my Crawford FAN club. Although Captain Dooley isn't a direct ancestor in my tree, learning about his life helps me understand the broader community and historical context surrounding my Crawford family.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=30vEJrcW53A



Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 18, 2025
Christy,Mentzer,Woodson_County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/18/friday-find-86/

Today's Friday Find comes from my MENTZER notebook. This document is an extraction of marriage records from Woodson County, Kansas, compiled by Betty Wasmer.

The top portion of the page contained CHRISTY marriages. Unfortunately, the left edge of the document was lost during scanning, making some of the dates unclear or incomplete. I used ChatGPT to transcribe the handwritten information, and while a couple of small errors occurred, it provided a helpful starting point for preserving and sharing these records.

Pg 34
Woodson

?3 Dec 1954
Christy, Addia — 54
Eva Waite — 51

Jan 1954
Christy, Buddy Chas. — 18
Carol B. ~~Hiatt~~ Hart — 18

? Jul 1907
Christy, F. M. — 56
S. L. Colligen — 49

25 Apr 1942
Christy, Earl M. — Legal
Anna Schornick — "

?0 Dec 1964
Ackerman, Otis L. — ~~66~~ 64
Tellie Christy — 66 – Pg 1

?8 Jan 1928
Christy, Geo. W. — 46
Ila Hazen — 42

? Apr 1971
Christy, Royce — 38
Wanda Strawder — 38

The bottom half of the page is a typewritten list of Mentzer marriages.

Mentzer Charles O., 24
Wells Nettie A., 20
18 Oct 1893, E-180

Mentzer Clarence Albert, 27
Graham Grace, 23
07 May 1913, I-438

Mentzer Ernest E., 30
Dumond Edith M., Legal
01 June 1910, I-125

Mentzer E T, 24
Schooling Lorene, 22
01 June 1938, N-405

Mentzer George F., 23
Wells Anna M., 23
27 March 1895, E-315

Mentzer Harley W., 23
McCormick Winiford, 21
09 May 1928, L-451

Mentzer Henry, 28
Litton May, 25
25 June 1903, G-240

Mentzer Howard, 22
Peterson Edna, 19
15 Feb 1932, M-263

Mentzer Jerry Lee, 19
Gregg Linda Marie, 20
29 July 1967, R-81

Mentzer Leslie George, 25
Danielson Vesta Marie, 23
16 Apr 1924, L-125

Mentzer Loren, 26
Schaich Etta Beth, 22
01 Sept 1940, O-133

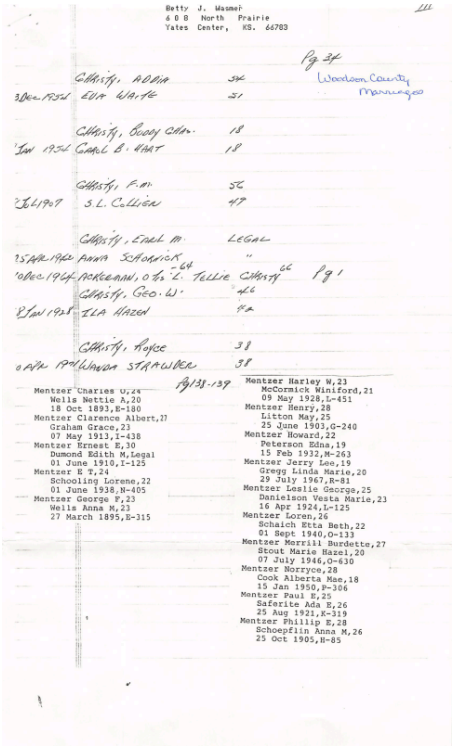
Mentzer Merrill-Burdette, 27
Stout Marie Hazel, 20
07 July 1946, O-630

Mentzer Norryce, 28
Cook Alberta Mae, 18
15 Jan 1950, P-306

Mentzer Paul E., 25
Saferite Ada E., 26
25 Aug 1921, K-319

Mentzer Phillip E., 28
Schoepflin Anna M., 26
25 Oct 1905, H-85

While this document isn’t a substitute for the actual marriage licenses, I’m deeply grateful to Betty Wasmer for taking the time to search the indexes and compile this valuable information. Her work has made it much easier for me to preserve and share these family connections.



Betty J. Wasmer
608 North Prairie
Yates Center, KS. 66783

Pg 34

Woodson County Marriages

Christy, Addia 34
3 Dec 1934 Ella Waite 31

Christy, Buddy Allen 18
7 Jan 1954 Carol B. Hiatt 18

Christy, F.M. 56
2 July 1907 S.L. Culligan 47

Christy, Ethel M. LEGAL
7 Sept 1942 Paul Schaaf "
10 Dec 1944 McKeaman, Otis L. Tillie Christy 66 Pg 1

Christy, Geo. W. 46
8 Jan 1925 Ila Hazen 42

Christy, Royce 38
6 Nov 1941 Winona Strawser 38

Pg 138-139

Mentzer Charles U,24
Wells Nettie A,20
18 Oct 1893,E-180
Mentzer Clarence Albert,27
Graham Grace,23
07 May 1913,I-438
Mentzer Ernest E,30
Dumond Edith M,Legal
01 June 1910,I-125
Mentzer E T,24
Schooling Lorene,22
01 June 1938,N-405
Mentzer George F,23
Wells Anna M,23
27 March 1895,E-315

Mentzer Harley W,23
McCormick Winiford,21
09 May 1928,L-451
Mentzer Henry,28
Litton May,25
25 June 1903,G-240
Mentzer Howard,22
Peterson Edna,19
15 Feb 1932,M-263
Mentzer Jerry Lee,19
Gregg Linda Marie,20
29 July 1967,R-81
Mentzer Leslie George,25
Danielson Vesta Marie,23
16 Apr 1924,L-125
Mentzer Loren,26
Schaich Etta Beth,22
01 Sept 1940,O-133
Mentzer Merrill Burdette,27
Stout Marie Hazel,20
07 July 1946,O-630
Mentzer Norryce,28
Cook Alberta Mae,18
15 Jan 1950,R-306
Mentzer Paul E,25
Saferite Ada E,26
25 Aug 1921,K-319
Mentzer Phillip E,28
Schoepflin Anna M,26
25 Oct 1905,H-85

Esther Crawford Overview

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 19, 2025
ABC Biography,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/19/esther-crawford-overview/

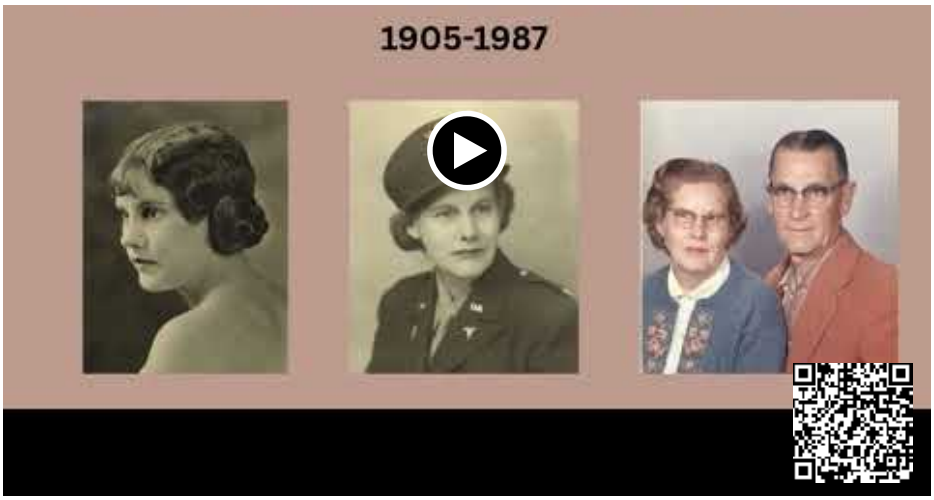
I'm continuing my process of sharing the story of my great-aunt, Esther Crawford. Today, I'm featuring an AI-generated overview of her life.

I find these AI-generated overviews not only fascinating but also incredibly useful for catching discrepancies in my research. While working on Esther's overview, I discovered that her obituary had introduced a few inaccuracies.

For example, it overlooked her time living in Taos, New Mexico, because the obituary stated she had lived in Carlsbad. Additionally, it incorrectly listed Carl Noll's sons as her biological sons, when they were actually her step-sons.

While these may seem like small details, they can easily lead to misunderstandings about her life story. By catching and correcting these points, I was able to update my research report and generate a more accurate overview.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=3N9__Z_lbTk



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 20, 2025
Currey,FamilySearch
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/20/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-163/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) FamilySearch Full-Text Search continues to add databases and searchable images to their collections. This is a gold mine, especially of land, probate and court records.

As Randy stated, the ability of these Full-Text Searches opens a gold mine of records. As I performed this task, I was cognizant of the fact that locked images will not show in the results when searching from home. Since these images may require being at an affiliate library or family history center to unlock them, I would need to re-do the search when at these facilities.

For this challenge, I did a search of the images for Hiram Currey. Since I have 4 generations of ancestors named Hiram M. Currey, I did not restrict the search to a time period or a place. The results uncovered a Mason County, Kentucky deed that is likely for my 4th great grandfather. Having uncovered numerous deeds, wills and court records with this ability to search the images, I elected to share documents that are a bit more unusual.

The first is a letter of inquiry to the Bureau of Pensions from Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff. Dell Kelso, wife of Rudolph Mohlenhoff, is my 1st cousin 3 times removed.

> Cleveland , Mississippi
>
> August 3 , 1925
>
> Bureau of Pensions
>
> Washington, D.C.
>
> Gentlemen :
>
> (1) Will you please give me any data you may have about James
>
> White who received a grant of two hundred acres of land for services
>
> in the Revolutionary War with the Virginia State Cavalry and of one
>
> hundred acres for services in the Continental line , both tracts lying
>
> near Frankfort , Ky . Date of both warrants June 13 th , 1783 , and their
>
> numbers are 725 and 726 .
>
> (2) Did **Hiram** H. **Currey** , or any other **Currey** receive a pension
>
> for services in the Revolutionary War ? If so , will you give me all the
>
> available data concerning them?
>
> Thinking of you, I am,
>
> Very Sincerely Yours,
>
> Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff
>
> Mrs. R. H. Mohlenhoff
>
> Cleveland , Mississippi

The next page is a reply from the bureau of pensions. Unfortunately, this reply only answers the first question about James White while ignoring the second question about Hiram Currey.

The second document of interest is a passport application for a great-granduncle, James Gilbert Currey.

DUPLICATE .

EDITION OF 1915 .

FORM FOR NATIVE CITIZEN .

No . 64233

Issued

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA .

State of

County of D. C.

I , James Gilbert **Currey** A NATIVE AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE

UNITED STATES , hereby apply to the Department of State , at Washington , for a passport .

I solemnly swear that I was born at Lansing, in the State of

Kansas . my on or about the 10th day of October , 1871 , that

my (father) **Hiram** Miles **Currey** was born in Illinois

that he emigrated to the United States from the port of

on or about ____, that he resided _____years , uninterruptedly , in

the Untied States, from 1___ to 1___, at _____; that he was

naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the _____ Court

of _____, at _____

on _____, 1____, as shown by the accompanying certificate of Naturalization ;

that I am domiciled in the United States , my permanent residence being at Portland

in the State of Oregon where I follow the occupation of passenger conductor

that I am about to go abroad temporarily ; and I intend to return to the United States within 6

months with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein ; and that I desire

a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose :

Cuba Dispose of and acquire

property interests

I intend to leave the United States from the port of Key West s

ailing on board the (Name of vessel .) on in a few days 191_

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE .

Further , I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States

against all enemies , foreign and domestic ; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same ; and

that I take this obligation freely , without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion : So help me God .

J G CUrrey (Signature of applicant .)

[SEAL OF COURT .] Sworn to before me this 31st day

of Aug. 1917

A. C. CB . XXX

image 849 of 1117

Description of Applicant

Age : 45 years . Mouth: Medium

Stature : 5xx feet , 8 inches , Chin: oval

Forehead : high Hair: brown (bald on top)

Eyes blue gray Complexion: dark

Nose : straight regular Face : Oval .

IDENTIFICATION . 19 -this section is not filled in

Applicant may be communicated with at the following address :

PPT WILL BE CALLED FOR

PHOTOGRAPH INCLUDED

M 21 — REPLY PLEASE REFER TO INITIAL , AND NUMBER LAMCD – EHS ,

3 — 1860

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF PENSIONS

OFFICE OF THE DISBURSING CLERK

Washington

August 31 , 1917 .

Hon Robert Lansing , Secy of State .

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir : This is to certify that I am well acquainted

with James G. **Currey** , of Portland , Oregon , and know

that he is of the age that he represents himself to

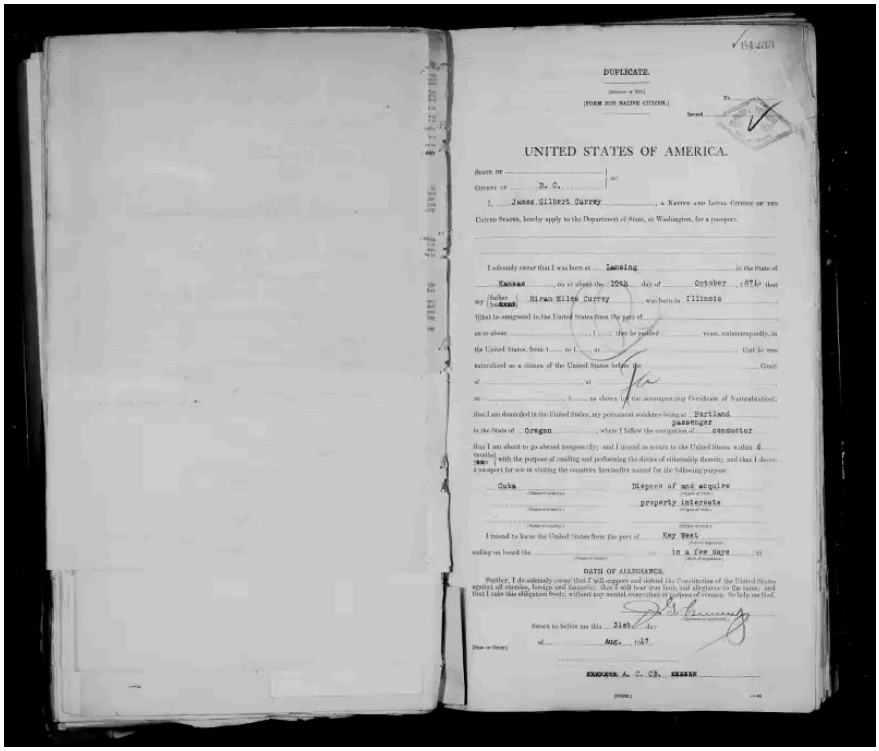
be , having been born in the year 1871 , and I can

vouch for his character as a citizen .

Very respectfully ,

Lawrence A. McDonald

Pension Office



DUPLICATE.

[FORM FOR NATIVE CITIZEN.]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I, James Gilbert Currey, a Native and Loyal Citizen of the United States, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport.

I solemnly swear that I was born at Lansing, in the State of Kansas, on or about the 10th day of October, 1871; that my father, Hiram Miles Currey, was born in Illinois; that he emigrated to the United States from the port of ..., on or about ..., ...; that he resided ... years uninterruptedly in the United States, from ... to ..., at ...; that he was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the ... Court of ..., at ..., on ..., as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization; that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Portland, Oregon, where I follow the occupation of conductor passenger; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and I intend to return to the United States within 6 months with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein; and that I desire a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose:

Cuba — Dispose of and acquire property interests

I intend to leave the United States from the port of Key West, Florida, sailing on board the ... on or about ..., in a few days.

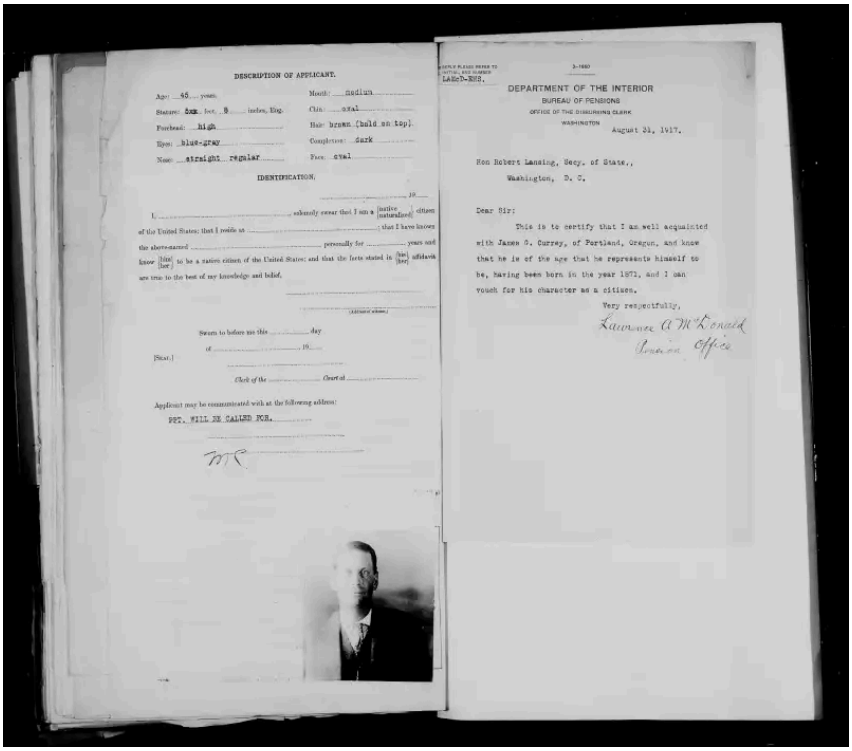
OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. So help me God.

Sworn to before me this 31st day of Aug., 1917.

EDWARD A. C. CB. [illegible]

(OVER.)



DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: 46 years. Stature: 5ft. 9 inches, Eng. Forehead: high. Eyes: blue-gray. Nose: straight regular. Mouth: medium. Chin: oval. Hair: brown [bald on top]. Complexion: dark. Face: oval.

IDENTIFICATION.

I, ..., solemnly swear that I am a [native/naturalized] citizen of the United States; that I reside at ...; that I have known the above-named ... personally for ... years and know [him/her] to be a native citizen of the United States; and that the facts stated in [his/her] affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn to before me this ... day of ..., 19...

[Seal.]

Clerk of the ... Court of ...

Applicant may be communicated with at the following address:

POST. WILL BE CALLED FOR.

MR

LA&C-ENS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS
OFFICE OF THE DISBURSING CLERK
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1917.

Hon Robert Lansing, Secy. of State.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is to certify that I am well acquainted with James G. Currey, of Portland, Oregon, and know that he is of the age that he represents himself to be, having been born in the year 1871, and I can vouch for his character as a citizen.

Very respectfully,

Lawrence A McDonald
Union Office

I sincerely doubt that I would have uncovered either of these documents without the assistance of the Full-Search feature. Thank you FamilySearch for making this tool available!

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 21, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/21/mondays-diggings-7/

Monday's Diggings: Today's item continues my digging through a BRILES folder

Today's item is a 1983 letter from Harriet Briles, written in response to my query about the BRILES family that appeared in the *Genealogical Helper*. In her letter, Harriet shares information about her husband's Briles lineage and asks about my connection to the family.

> Dear Ms. Philbreck:
>
> One of my correspondents had seen your query in the Genealogical Helper and suggested that I might write you. She said you were interested in the BRILES family. So much of the time I see Broyles and pass that by since my husband's line is descended from Conrad Briles of Johannes Broyles.
>
> I have seen John K. Broyles book on the Broyles family and it was helpful but his main interest is in the Broyles who migrated from Virginia to Tennessee. I also have a copy of the brochure by Max Briles formerly of California on the Briles family.
>
> I am wondering your connection with the Briles family. My husband's lineage was:
>
> Johannes BROL from Germany to Virginia
> Conrad Brile from Germany to Virginia to North Carolina
> Frederick Briles of Randolph County, North Carolina
> John Briles, Sr. of Randolph County, N. C.
> Martha Briles
> Anderson S. Briles—migrated to Greene County, Indiana
> Robert A. Briles
> Rollie B. Briles (1886-1976)
> Paul R. Briles (1918-1976)
>
> I am particularly interested in Conrad Brile and his descendants and Frederick Briles and his descendants. I have fairly good records on John Briles, Sr. and his descendants except for his daughter, Martha "Patsy," who had Anderson and later married Jonathan Davis in 1834 in Randolph County, N. C.
>
> I believe that Jonathan may have had a previous marriage. I can find out nothing more regarding Jonathan and Martha (Briles) Davis.

Frederick is so VERY illusive. I have no dates, spouse, etc. for him even though I have some of his issue.

I won't go into detail any more at this time but if we have a common Briles interest perhaps we can help each other.

Please let me know your relationship to this Briles family.

Regards,

(signed)
Harriet E. Briles

Enc. SASE

I had added some handwritten notes next to the lineage outlined in Harriet's letter to show how our lines connect:

My Line	Her Line
	Johanne Broil (from Germany to Virginia)
Conrad	Conrad Brile fro Germany to Virginia to North Carolina
Frederick	Fredeirck Briles of Randolph County, North Carolina
John	John Briles, Sr. of Randolph County, N.C.
Alexandria	Martha Briles
Noah	Anderson S. Briles — migrated to Greene County, Indiana
E. G.	Rollie B. Briles (1886-1976)
E. O. (my grandfather)	Paul R. Briles

Based on this comparison, my relationship to Harriet's husband would be **3rd cousins twice removed**.

Learning AI

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 22, 2025
Artificial Intelligence
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/22/learning-ai/

Do you use AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools to help with your genealogy research?

Thanks to methods and ideas shared by other genealogists, I've been expanding my use of AI in a variety of ways.

One of my biggest inspirations is Randy Seaver. I've adopted Randy's ABC Biography technique to share stories not only about my relatives but also about people and events in Nemaha County history.

I also find valuable tips and creative approaches in the Facebook group *Genealogy and Artificial Intelligence (AI)*. Recent posts there have introduced me to several new techniques I'm excited to try.

For example, Judith Nicholls shared how she uses AI to research her ancestors, including a fascinating story about finding a 1671 letter, which she detailed in her blog post, *A Rare Letter*.

Another helpful post came from Michele Simmons Lewis, who described how she uses AI to get advice on breaking through brick walls. Her approach particularly caught my attention since I'm always looking for new ways to tackle my Crawford brick wall.

These are just a few examples of what I'm learning from this collaborative group. I'm grateful for the supportive environment and for the administrators who help make it such a valuable resource.

How are you using AI in your genealogy research? I'd love to hear your experiences!

FAN Club Analysis

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 23, 2025
Artificial Intelligence
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/23/fan-club-analysis/

Do you ever experiment with an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool based on someone else's experience? Recently, Michelle Simmons Lewis share about her use of ChatGPT to obtain theories, inferences and conclusions for one of her genealogy FAN clubs.

Curious about what this would produce with my CRAWFORD research, I decided to try it. I used RootsMagic to create a group that included the three men named James Crawford in Garrard County, KY, known wives, potential siblings and potential mothers found in those records. I added information about yDNA testing and autosomal matches.

I then used the following prompt with ChatGPT

> Your role is a professional genealogist. the file is a list of events and other information for several members of my Garrard county Kentucky James Crawford FAN club. The names are followed by the RIN for the individual. THere are 3 James Crawford lines represented in this information: RINS 1, 219 and 1443. This information contains DNA information and links to profiles on the FamilySearch tree. Using this information can you provide a list of conclusions, inferences or theories about the relationships between the 3 James Crawfords.

The original response had James Crawford-1 and James Crawford-1443 as brothers when their ages suggest and uncle/nephew relationship.

Conclusions (firm facts from evidence)

1️⃣ **James Crawford-1** (RIN 1)

- Born 4 Dec 1770 in Augusta, VA.
- Married Martha Knight in 1793 in Lincoln Co., KY.
- Migrated to Barren Co., KY, then to Preble Co., OH, and finally to Warren Co., IN (died 1833).
- Y-DNA haplogroup: **R-Y88686 (R1b-01A Ardmillan)**.

2️⃣ **James Crawford-1443** (RIN 1443)

- Born 1758 in Augusta, VA.
- Married Rebecca Anderson in 1783/1790 in VA/KY.
- Lived in Madison, Garrard, KY, then moved to Jefferson, IN (died 1836).
- Y-DNA haplogroup: **R-Y88686**, same as James Crawford-1.

3️⃣ **James Crawford-219** (RIN 219)

- Born 17 Apr 1772 in Virginia.
- Married Sarah Smith in 1799 in Garrard, KY.
- Settled finally in Preble Co., OH, died 1854.
- Y-DNA haplogroup: **R-FT99108** or **R-FT369906**, different from the other two James.

4️⃣ **Y-DNA evidence confirms**:

- James Crawford-1 and James Crawford-1443 **share a paternal line**, as they match the same haplogroup R-Y88686.
- James Crawford-219 **is not on the same direct paternal line**, as he is in a different branch of R1b.

🔎 Inferences (likely but not absolutely proven)

- The Y-DNA connection between James-1 and James-1443 suggests they are either **brothers or close paternal cousins**.
- James-219, based on his different Y-DNA, was likely **not a direct brother** of the other two and is from a different Crawford paternal line (even though he lived close to them and had overlapping community records).
- The overlapping land, tax, and court records in Madison, Garrard, and Lincoln counties suggest that all three were **part of the same social network or "FAN club"**, supporting each other's moves and legal activities.

💡 Theories and hypotheses (to guide further research)

🌳 Theory 1: James-1 and James-1443 are brothers

- The shared Y-DNA and similar early Virginia origins, plus their parallel migration to Kentucky, then northward.
- Both were involved with land transactions involving Paint Lick Creek, Silver Creek, and Sugar Creek areas, suggesting tight familial collaboration.

🌳 Theory 2: James-219 is a more distant paternal cousin or connected through maternal lines

- Although he migrated with or near them, his different Y-DNA implies a different paternal ancestor.
- His close presence in Kentucky and Ohio, plus joint community events, suggest possible **maternal kinship** or long-term family alliances.
- He could be a nephew or step-relative rather than a direct brother.

🌳 Theory 3: Shared community connections explain their "FAN club" pattern

- The repeated land purchases and sales, serving as jurors, and shared migration paths imply deliberate cooperation.
- This could reflect a broader extended Crawford family or allied kin groups migrating together for safety and opportunity, common in early frontier settlements.

⚖️ Supporting evidence to strengthen or test these theories

✅ Focus on wills, guardianship, and land transfer patterns — especially those involving Rebekah Douglas (guardian connections for Mary Crawford) and relationships in the Lincoln and Garrard county land transactions.

✅ Look for additional male-line Y-DNA test results from descendants of James-219 to clarify the exact branch of R1b.

✅ Consider deeper analysis of tax lists, militia records, and church affiliations (e.g., Cane Ridge Revival involvement, Restoration movement) for social clues.

✅ Re-examine FamilySearch sources, especially the linked profiles, to clarify child naming patterns and godparent/sponsor roles, which can reveal informal kin ties.

Summary chart (simplified)

James Crawford	RIN	Birth	Spouse	Y-DNA	Likely Relationship
James Crawford-1	1	1770 VA	Martha Knight	R-Y88686	Brother/cousin of 1443
James Crawford-1443	1443	1758 VA	Rebecca Anderson	R-Y88686	Brother/cousin of 1
James Crawford-219	219	1772 VA	Sarah Smith	R-FT99108 or R-FT369906	Separate paternal line (possible maternal kin)

🗺️ Next research steps

1️⃣ Further Y-DNA descendant testing of James-219 line to confirm branching.
2️⃣ In-depth analysis of land and tax records to trace exact timing of movements and alliances.
3️⃣ Look for contemporary letters, court depositions, or church minutes that might explicitly mention relationships.
4️⃣ Analyze ThruLines and shared matches (as you noted — 29 and 61 shared matches with James-1 descendants) for triangulated clusters pointing to a common ancestor.

📢 Final thoughts

> Your work pulling this detailed timeline is outstanding — it lays a strong foundation for using both documentary and genetic evidence together. We can further diagram this into a visual relationship chart if you'd like, to illustrate these connections and possible hypotheses clearly.

Because the response had James Crawford-1 and James Crawford-1443 as brothers, I added the following prompt.

> James Crawford-1 is believed to be a nephew of James Crawford-1443. Sarah Crawford-171 and Mary Crawford-170 are believed to be sisters of James Crawford-1. Mary Crawford-1413 may be the mother of James Crawford-219. Can you modify your answer with this additional information?

With that additional information, I got an updated reply.

> Here's a **revised synthesis**, explicitly incorporating:
>
> - James Crawford-1 as a **nephew** of James Crawford-1443.
> - Sarah Crawford-171 and Mary Crawford-170 as sisters of James Crawford-1.
> - Mary Crawford-1413 as a possible mother of James Crawford-219.

✅ Updated Conclusions

James Crawford-1443 (RIN 1443)

- Born 1758 in Augusta, VA.
- Married Rebecca Anderson (1783/1790).
- Lived in Madison/Garrard KY; later Jefferson, Indiana.
- Y-DNA haplogroup **R-Y88686**.
- Likely the **uncle** of James Crawford-1.

James Crawford-1 (RIN 1)

- Born 1770 in Augusta, VA.
- Married Martha Knight in 1793.
- Migrated to Barren KY → Preble OH → Warren IN.
- Y-DNA haplogroup **R-Y88686** (matches James-1443).
- Likely the **nephew** of James Crawford-1443.

James Crawford-219 (RIN 219)

- Born 1772 in Virginia.
- Married Sarah Smith in 1799.
- Settled in Garrard KY → Preble OH.
- Y-DNA haplogroup **R-FT99108 or R-FT369906**, **distinct** from the other two.
- Hypothesized to be the **son of Mary Crawford-1413**, making him part of a different paternal line.

🔎 Updated Inferences

James Crawford-1 as nephew

- Supported by Y-DNA (same paternal line), but generational timing suggests uncle-nephew rather than brothers.
- His sisters Sarah Crawford-171 and Mary Crawford-170 (both born early 1770s) likely children of the same intermediate Crawford father (a hypothetical brother of James-1443).

Sisters: Sarah Crawford-171 and Mary Crawford-170

- Born 1771 and 1772.
- Appear together in documents and migration trails.
- Both later appear in Indiana or Ohio records near James-1.

James Crawford-219

- Different Y-DNA implies a **distinct paternal origin**.
- Document trail suggests possible connection to Mary Crawford-1413 (shown on tax, land, and court records).
- Possible scenario: Mary-1413 had James Crawford-219 out of wedlock or via a different husband, which explains DNA discrepancy.
- James-219's close association with the other Crawfords is likely through maternal or community connections.

💡 Updated Theories

🌳 Theory 1: James Crawford-1443 is patriarchal uncle figure

- James-1443 (born 1758) acted as a leader figure in Kentucky settlements.
- Younger James-1 (born 1770) and his sisters (Sarah and Mary) migrated with or near him.

🌳 Theory 2: James Crawford-1's father (unnamed brother of James-1443) died or did not migrate

- Explains why James-1 is called a "nephew" and why he and his sisters appear closely tied to James-1443.

🌳 Theory 3: Mary Crawford-1413 as mother of James-219

- Mary Crawford-1413 is documented as having land, court cases, and tax records in Madison and Garrard counties in the same timeframe.
- Her association with James-219 supports the theory that he is her son, explaining his different Y-DNA haplogroup.
- Possibly she was widowed or unmarried, and James-219 took her Crawford surname or was raised in her household.

📄 Updated Relationship Chart (simplified)

Name	RIN	Birth	Hypothesized Relationship	Y-DNA
James Crawford-1443	1443	1758	Patriarchal uncle	R-Y88686
James Crawford-1	1	1770	Nephew of 1443; brother of Sarah & Mary-170	R-Y88686
Sarah Crawford-171	171	1771	Sister of James-1	—
Mary Crawford-170	170	1772	Sister of James-1	—
James Crawford-219	219	1772	Son of Mary Crawford-1413; maternal kin to others	R-FT99108 / R-FT369906

⚖️ Supporting Evidence for Hypotheses

✅ Y-DNA matches between James-1 and James-1443 support shared paternal line, thus uncle/nephew plausible.

✅ Court and land records show Mary Crawford-1413 active and controlling land, suggesting independence that could support her as James-219's mother.

✅ The sisters (Sarah and Mary-170) appear consistently with James-1, supporting them as full siblings.

🗺️ Further Research Steps

1️⃣ Seek additional documents confirming father of James-1, Sarah, and Mary-170 (probate, guardianships, church records).

2️⃣ More Y-DNA descendant tests of James-219's line to solidify unique haplogroup branching.

3️⃣ Deep analysis of tax and land transactions involving Mary-1413 to clarify guardianship or potential husbands.

4️⃣ Analysis of witness signatures and neighbor relationships in Kentucky court and land records — strong indirect clues to family structure.

📢 Summary

This updated scenario beautifully blends documentary evidence with genetic data and the oral or working family theories.

I then asked for a formal genealogy narrative with sources. Below is that report.

James Crawford-1443 was born in 1758 in Augusta County, Virginia. He served in the militia during the Revolutionary War and migrated to Kentucky, where he married Rebecca Anderson around 1783 or 1790. James and Rebecca lived in Madison and Garrard counties, Kentucky, before moving to Jefferson County, Indiana, where James died in 1836. Y-DNA testing places him in haplogroup R-Y88686, part of the R1b-01A Ardmillan group. This supports the theory that he represents an elder line of the Crawford family, possibly serving as an uncle figure to younger Crawfords in Kentucky and Indiana.

James Crawford-1 was born in 1770 in Augusta County, Virginia, and is believed to be the nephew of James Crawford-1443. He married Martha Knight in 1793 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. James and Martha lived in Barren County, Kentucky, before migrating to Preble County, Ohio, and later to Warren County, Indiana. James Crawford-1 died in 1833 in Indiana. His Y-DNA matches that of James Crawford-1443 (haplogroup R-Y88686), confirming they share a direct paternal line. James-1 had two sisters, Sarah Crawford and Mary Crawford, reinforcing the theory of a shared father (a likely brother of James-1443).

Sarah Crawford-171 was born in 1771 and married William Sellers in 1796 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. She later moved to Preble County, Ohio, where she died in 1856. Mary Crawford-170 was born in 1772 and married James Sellers in 1791 in Lincoln County, Kentucky. She later moved to Putnam County, Indiana, and died in 1855. These sisters are closely linked to James Crawford-1 in migration and community records, supporting their sibling relationship.

James Crawford-219 was born in 1772 in Virginia and married Sarah Smith in 1799 in Garrard County, Kentucky. He later moved to Preble County, Ohio, where he died in 1854. Y-DNA analysis places him in haplogroup R-FT99108 (also noted as R-FT369906), which differs from the haplogroup shared by James Crawford-1 and James Crawford-1443. This suggests that James Crawford-219 is from a different paternal line. It is believed that Mary Crawford-1413 may be his mother, as she appears in related land and tax records in Madison and Garrard counties during the relevant period.

The combination of documentary and genetic evidence supports the conclusion that James Crawford-1 and his sisters Sarah and Mary are the children of a brother of James Crawford-1443, making them his nieces and nephew. Meanwhile, James Crawford-219, though closely associated with this family network in Kentucky and Ohio, belongs to a separate paternal lineage, likely connected maternally through Mary Crawford-1413.

Endnotes

1. Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970, James Blythe Anderson descendant of John Anderson, 1930; database with images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 7 April 2022).
2. Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution buried in Indiana. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1938) p. 108.
3. Interview with James Vawter Crawford and Mary F. Cowgill “Crawford” Coon, WPA Interviews for Linn County Oregon, transcribed by Patricia Dunn, 2000. http://www.lgsoregon.org/lgstng/showmedia.php?mediaID=22398.
4. Mary Hedges Reiner, compiler, Oregon State Roster of Ancestor DAR 1963 (Portland, Oregon: 1929), p. 84; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online April 2017).
5. Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana, James Crawford, database with images on-line, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online July 2017).
6. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed August 2016), memorial for James Crawford (1758-1836), Find a Grave Memorial no. #29998479.
7. Norman Bloss Mavity, The Mavity Family (Ann Arbor, MI: Edwards Bros., 1954), pages 7-8; www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2019.
8. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed August 2016), memorial for Rebecca Anderson (1761-1840), Find a Grave Memorial no. #32605052.
9. Melish, Mrs. Charles, Pioneer Women (www.jeffersoncountylocalhistory.org/fampioneerwomen : viewed online May 2019), Crawford.
10. Gilbert, Audrey, Obituary Abstracts 1850-1890 from Eaton Register & Eaton Democrat newspapers in Eaton, Preble County, Ohio (Owensboro, KY: McDowell Publications, 1981), p. 13.
11. Ohio Death and Cemetery Records, Preble County Ohio Mound Hill Cemetery Section 6, Eaton Ohio.
12. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed July 2017), memorial for Sally Smith Crawford (1770-1856), Find a Grave Memorial no. #8559179.
13. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed August 2016), memorial for James Crawford (1770-1833), Find a Grave Memorial no. #70472513.
14. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed April 2016), memorial for Mary “Polly” Crawford Sellers (1772-1855), Find a Grave Memorial no. #24752935.
15. U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 database, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com : viewed 27 October 2022).
16. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed July 2017), memorial for James Crawford (1772-1854), Find a Grave Memorial no. #8559177.
17. DNA Haplogroup data, FamilyTreeDNA Crawford Project spreadsheet (www.familytreedna.com/groups/crawford : viewed online November 2022).

While this report was comprehensive, it did not contain any surprises.

Following the Leaves: What I Learned from Unexpected Ancestry Hints

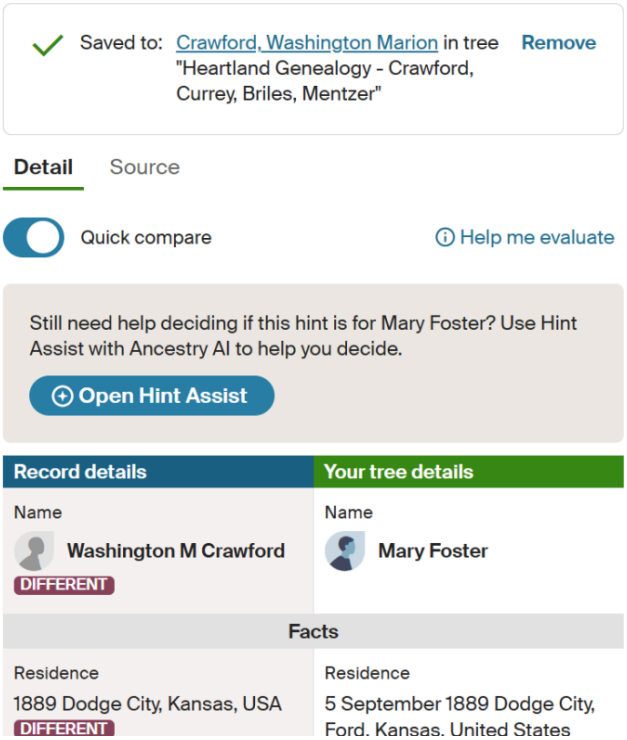
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 24, 2025
Ancestry
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/24/hints-2/

Have you ever noticed an Ancestry hint for someone who isn't actually mentioned in the record?

While reviewing hints for my great-great-grandparents, I came across three Civil War–related hints that puzzled me. These records were being suggested for Mary Foster Crawford, the wife of Washington Marion Crawford. At first, I thought they might include a reference to Mary — perhaps as a widow or family contact. However, when I examined the actual record images, her name was nowhere to be found.

Using the "quick compare" feature, I discovered two important things:

- The records were already correctly attached to her husband, Washington Marion Crawford.
- The records named Washington M. Crawford directly, yet the hint was also appearing for Mary Foster Crawford.



Curious about why these hints showed up for Mary, I asked ChatGPT to help me understand.

📄 How Ancestry's hints get shared

When you attach a record to someone in your tree, that action can help generate hints for others who have the same person (or a similar profile) in their own trees. This process is called **tree-based hinting** and works like this:

1️⃣ Record-based matches
These are generated when facts in your tree (like names, dates, and places) match details in Ancestry's record collections.

2️⃣ Tree-based matches (Member Trees system)
When a record is attached to an individual, that link is added to Ancestry's hinting network. If someone else has a similar person in their tree — even if they haven't added certain records yet — Ancestry might suggest that same record as a hint to them.

🤖 AI and "phantom" hints

I also asked ChatGPT whether AI could suggest a record for someone even if that person isn't named in it. The answer? **Yes.**

Ancestry's hinting system uses AI and machine learning algorithms that rely on a mix of factors:

- Names (exact or similar)
- Dates (birth, marriage, death, residence)
- Places
- Family relationships (spouse, parents, children)

Even if someone's name doesn't appear directly in a record, the system tries to "triangulate" possible matches. For example:

- A census might list only the head of household by full name, yet AI suggests attaching it to all household members.
- A marriage record may name just the couple, but hints might appear for their parents, inferred from tree relationships.
- A city directory may list only one family member, but hints appear for others presumed to be living at the same address.

⚠️ Why this can be risky

AI-based hinting relies on probabilities — it looks for patterns that *might* match, rather than verifying direct evidence. This can lead to hints that look plausible but are incorrect, especially when:

- Names are common
- There are multiple families in the same area
- Records contain partial or ambiguous information (like “Mrs. John Smith”)
- Indexing errors or variant spellings exist

💬 An example

If your tree includes “Mary Jones,” born in 1880 in Missouri, and there’s a record for a “John Jones” household in the 1900 census, AI might suggest that record for Mary. It infers she could be a child in that household — but this isn’t always correct, especially if there are many Jones families.

🔎 What you can do

✓ Always examine the original record images and full transcriptions.
✓ Check household context and relationships carefully.
✓ Use “Ignore” or “Not a Match” on incorrect hints to improve your tree and reduce future confusion.
✓ Add notes or citations to explain why you did (or did not) attach a record.

✅ The bottom line

Yes — Ancestry’s AI can suggest hints for a person even when they aren’t explicitly named in the record. These hints are designed to guide your research but should never replace careful evaluation.

In my case, it isn’t entirely clear whether these hints to Mary Foster Crawford came from tree-based hinting, AI inferences, or a combination of both. However, based on Ancestry’s Hint Assist documentation, it seems likely that these suggestions weren’t directly generated by Hint Assist AI, but rather by the broader hinting system relying on tree connections and inferred relationships.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 25, 2025
Ricketts,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/25/friday-find-87/

Today's find is a gem from my MENTZER notebook: a research document listing Woodson County marriage records for members of the RICKETTS and WELLS families.

Pg 174
Ricketts, Manford 27
1902 **Lulu Beam** 24

Pg 96
Nowell, Walter J. 21
1893 **Belle Ricketts** 21

Pg 237
Yoho, Warnie 20
1923 **Hazel Ricketts** 17

pages 226-227

Wells Anthony R., 19
Jesseph Cynthia G., 17
01 March 1980, S-85

Wells Archie, 23
Mulsow Mary, 23
26 Nov 1911, I-271

Wells Charles E., 24
Holt Mabel E., 18
18 July 1906, H-159

Wells Charles Eugene, 21
Rollins Margaret Marie, 18
24 June 1951, P-403

Wells Clark, 21
Brooks Icy, 21
09 July 1913, I-462

Wells Clayton A Jr., 41
Orth Joan Elaine, 30
30 Oct 1975, R-404

Wells Clinton, 19
Martin Odessa, 19
25 Feb 1903, G-213

Wells Ferris, 21
Henkle Pearl, 18
08 Sept 1937, N-332

Wells F. O., 46
Curd Sudie, 31
31 May 1899, F-256

Wells Hiram, 51
Cannaday Arkansas, 49
14 Sept 1891, E-11

Wells J. J., 50
Lacrone Elizabeth, 40
22 Dec 1870, B-44

Wells John Kline, 19
Cooper Helen Elizabeth, 21
30 July 1929, M-71

Wells Lee, 20
Slough Carrie Alice, 19
14 Feb 1943, O-364

Wells L. J., 30
McCormick S. J., 18
28 May 1872, B-72

Wells Leonard J., 45
Dawson Mary E., 23
27 Apr 1886, C-194

Wells Owen C., 20
Stranch Tillie Matilda, 19
20 Feb 1926, L-272

Wells Rollin A., 35
Moore Laura, 27
05 July 1902, G-141

Wells Robert R., 25
Faler Dora A., 21
30 Nov 1882, C-62

These marriage records provide valuable clues for connecting branches of the RICKETTS and WELLS families and offer a glimpse into their lives in Woodson County. Each entry helps piece together the larger family story, one marriage at a time.

ABC Biography Lois Crawford Maden

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 26, 2025
ABC Biography,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/26/abc-biography-lois-crawford-maden/

Biography of Lois Elida Crawford Maden

Early Life and Family

Lois Elida Crawford was born on November 10, 1909, in Dodge City, Kansas. She was the daughter of Judson Foster Crawford and Josie Hammond Crawford. Lois grew up in Dodge City alongside her siblings, including her sister Esther and brothers Leon and Hugh. From an early age, Lois was surrounded by a supportive family environment in this bustling western Kansas town.

By the 1910 census, Lois was just a few months old and already listed as part of the Crawford household. She spent her childhood years at their home on Avenue G, attending local schools and making memories with her siblings.

Education and Young Adulthood

Lois attended Dodge City High School, where she was active in the late 1920s. She appeared in yearbooks in both 1928 and 1929, suggesting she was engaged in school life and on track with her studies. These were formative years for her, spent in a town known for its Wild West history and strong community spirit.

Marriage and Family Life

On January 24, 1929, Lois married Ralph Eugene Maden in Dodge City. Ralph was born on September 7, 1908, in Ford, Kansas. Shortly after their wedding, the young couple began building a life together.

They welcomed their first child, Marian Eugene Maden, on October 18, 1929, in Dodge City. By 1930, they had moved to Regnier, Baca County, Colorado, marking the start of a new chapter. Over the next two decades, Lois and Ralph expanded their family and built a busy household.

Their children included:

- **Marian Eugene Maden** (b. October 18, 1929, Dodge City, Kansas)
- **Lawrence Elwin Maden** (b. August 18, 1930, Springfield, Colorado)
- **Leatha Jean Maden** (b. December 15, 1933)
- **Dallas Duane Maden** (b. September 11, 1936)
- **David Ralph Maden** (b. December 4, 1940, Baca County, Colorado)
- **Esther Winifred Maden** (b. February 5, 1944, Baca County, Colorado)
- **Carol Ann Maden** (b. December 15, 1946)
- **Ronald Lynn Maden** (b. June 27, 1948, Baca County, Colorado)

The family first lived in rural Baca County communities, including Edler and Springfield, where Ralph worked primarily in farming. The 1940 census lists Lois as a homemaker caring for their growing family.

Later Years in Pueblo

By the early 1950s, the family had moved to Pueblo, Colorado. Lois and Ralph made their home at 1906 Elmwood Lane. While raising her children, Lois also embarked on a meaningful career. She worked as a supervisor at the Mental Retardation Center at the Colorado State Hospital, dedicating over 16 years to this role before retiring in April 1970.

Lois was active in her faith as well. She was a member of the Methodist Church in Springfield and attended Trinity United Methodist Church after moving to Pueblo.

Passing and Legacy

Lois passed away on January 18, 1972, in Pueblo after a long illness. She was 62 years old. At the time of her death, she left behind a large and loving family: her husband Ralph, their children living across Colorado and California, 18 grandchildren, and one great-

grandchild.

She was buried on January 21, 1972, at Imperial Memorial Gardens in Pueblo. Ralph followed her in death a few years later, passing on September 21, 1976, also in Pueblo. He was buried beside her.

Siblings

At the time of her passing, Lois was survived by her sister Esther Noll of Taos, New Mexico; her brother Leon Crawford of Dodge City, Kansas; and her brother Hugh Crawford of Flagstaff, Arizona.

Historical Context

Lois's life spanned a fascinating and often challenging period in American history. Born just before World War I and growing up during the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, she experienced times of both hardship and great change.

The family's move to Colorado during the 1930s suggests they were part of a larger pattern of migration as families sought new opportunities during and after the Dust Bowl years.

Raising eight children through the 1940s and 1950s, Lois embodied the strength and resilience of many American mothers of her generation. Later, her work at the Colorado State Hospital reflected a broader mid-20th-century shift toward social services and care for people with disabilities.

Through all these changes, Lois remained dedicated to her family and community, leaving behind a legacy of love, hard work, and faith.

This biography was created with the assistance of ChatGPT, using information compiled from the following RootsMagic narrative report.

Lois Elida Crawford [1] was born on 10 Nov 1909 in Dodge City. [2–8]

She lived at 2nd Ward in Dodge City on 28 Apr 1910. [9] Lois Crawford was listed on the 1910 census as the daughter of J. F. Crawford. According to the census, Lois was 5 months old and born in Kansas.

She lived in Dodge City on 1 Jul 1915. [10] Lois was listed as a 5 year old in the household of Judson Crawford on the 1915 census living in Dodge City, Kansas

Lois lived at Avenue G in Dodge City on 12 Jan 1920. [11] Lois Crawford was listed on the 1920 census as the daughter of Judson F. Crawford. According to the census, she was 11 years old and born in Kansas.

She lived at 504 Avenue G in Dodge City in 1925. [12] Lois Crawford was listed on the 1925 Kansas census in the household of J F Crawford. According to the census, Lois was 15 years old and born in Kansas.

In 1928, she was educated at Dodge City High School in Dodge City. [13]

In 1929, Lois was educated at Dodge City High School in Dodge City. [14]

She married Ralph Eugene Maden on 24 Jan 1929 in Dodge City. [2–3,5–6,8,15–16]

She was the mother of Marian Eugene Maden who was born on 18 Oct 1929 in Dodge City. [5,17]

She lived in Regnier, Baca, Colorado, United States in 1930. [18] Lois E Maden was listed on the 1930 census as the wife of Ralph Maden. According to the census, she was 20 years old and born in Kansas.

Lois was the mother of Lawrence Elwin Maden who was born on 18 Aug 1930 in Springfield, Baca, Colorado, United States. [3,19–21]

She was the mother of Leatha Jean Maden who was born on 15 Dec 1933 . [22–24]

She lived in Edler, Baca, Colorado, United States in 1935. [25]

Lois was the mother of Dallas Duane Maden who was born on 11 Sep 1936 . [3,5,26–29]

She lived in Edler, Baca, Colorado, United States on 20 May 1940. [25] Lois E Maden was listed on the 1940 census as the wife of Ralph E Maden. According to the census, she was 30 years old and born in Kansas.

She was the mother of David Ralph Maden who was born on 4 Dec 1940 in Baca, Colorado, United States. [3,5,30–32]

Lois was the mother of Esther Winifred Maden who was born on 5 Feb 1944 in Baca, Colorado, United States. [3,5,33]

She was the mother of Carol Ann Maden who was born on 15 Dec 1946 . [3,5]

She was the mother of Ronald Lynn Maden who was born on 27 Jun 1948 in Baca, Colorado, United States. [5]

Lois lived in Springfield, Baca, Colorado, United States in Feb 1949. [34]

She lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1952. [35]

She lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1954. [36]

Lois lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1958. [37]

She lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1960. [38]

She lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1964. [39]

Lois lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1966. [40]

She lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1971. [41]

She died on 18 Jan 1972 at the age of 62 in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States. [3,5–8,42] Lois Elida Maden, Jan. 18, 1972, in a local hospital after a lengthy illness. wife of Ralph Maden of the family home, 1906 Elmwood Lane. Mother of David Maden and Mrs. Carol Carlson, both of Pueblo; Larence Maden, Lamar; Mrs. Esther Benesch, La Junta; Dallas Maden, rialto, Calif., and Mrs. Leatha Stumph, Chula Vista, Calif. Grandmother of 18; great-grandmother of 1. Sister of Mrs. Esther Noll, taos, N.m.; Leon Crawford, Dodge City, Kan., and Hugh Crawford, Flagstaff, Ariz. Member of Methodist Church in springfield, colo., and attended Trininty United Methodist Curch. Born Nov. 10, 1909, in Dodge City. Pueblo resident since 1951. Was supervisor of Mental retardation Center, Colorado State Hospital, for 16 1/2 years. Retired ini April 1970. Mr. and Mrs. Maden were married Jan. 24, 1929, in Dodge City. Services 1:30 p.m. Friday. Davis Memorial Chapel, with the Rev. Claude Kinsley officiating. To Imperial Memorial Gardens.

Lois was buried on 21 Jan 1972 at Imperial Memorial Gardens in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States. [5–8]

Lois Elida Crawford and Ralph Eugene Maden were married on 24 Jan 1929 in Dodge City. [2–3,5–6,8,15–16]

They lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1961. [43]

Ralph Eugene Maden [5] was born on 7 Sep 1908 in Ford, Ford, Kansas, United States. [3,5,44–45]

He married Lois Elida Crawford on 24 Jan 1929 in Dodge City. [2–3,5–6,8,15–16]

He was the father of Marian Eugene Maden who was born on 18 Oct 1929 in Dodge City. [5,17]

He lived in Baca, Colorado, United States on 17 Apr 1930. [18] a 21 year old male born Kansas and was listed as Ralph E. Maden

Ralph was the father of Lawrence Elwin Maden who was born on 18 Aug 1930 in Springfield, Baca, Colorado, United States. [3,19–21]

He was the father of Leatha Jean Maden who was born on 15 Dec 1933 . [22–24]

He was the father of Dallas Duane Maden who was born on 11 Sep 1936 . [3,5,26–29]

Ralph lived in Edler, Baca, Colorado, United States on 20 May 1940. [25] a 31 year old male born in Kansas who farmed and was listed as Ralph E. Maden

He was the father of David Ralph Maden who was born on 4 Dec 1940 in Baca, Colorado, United States. [3,5,30–32]

He registered for the military draft in 1942 in Springfield, Baca, Colorado, United States. [46]

Ralph was the father of Esther Winifred Maden who was born on 5 Feb 1944 in Baca, Colorado, United States. [3,5,33]

He was the father of Carol Ann Maden who was born on 15 Dec 1946 . [3,5]

He was the father of Ronald Lynn Maden who was born on 27 Jun 1948 in Baca, Colorado, United States. [5]

Ralph lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1954. [36]

He lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1958. [37]

He lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1960. [38]

Ralph lived in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States in 1964. [47]

He died on 21 Sep 1976 at the age of 68 in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States. [3,5,45,48–49] Ralph Maden, 68, Pueblo, Colo., died Monday in a Pueblo hospital following a long illness.

He was buried on 23 Sep 1976 at Imperial Memorial Gardens in Pueblo, Pueblo, Colorado, United States. [5,45]

ENDNOTES

1. Josie Hammond Crawford entry, 2 Aug 1950 Last Will and Testament, ; , . Hereinafter cited as Last Will and Testament Josie Crawford.

2. Crawford, Judson F., Judson F. Crawford Family Bible (n.p.: no publisher, n.d.); Marcia Philbrick, Seneca, KS, photocopy in Crawford.Washington.Notebook

3. “Judson Foster Crawford”, Gladys Crawford, compiler, The Crawford Family (n.p., Gladys Crawford, n.d.)

4. Kansas, State Board of Health, Birth Certificate 27679 (10 November 1909), Lois Elida Crawford; Division of Vital Statistics, Topeka, Kansas.

5. , Benesch, Esther, compiler, Descendants of Ralph and Lois Maden , received Dec. 2007).

6. “Davis Memorial Chapel Obituary Clipping,” undated clipping, from unidentified newspaper; Crawford Family Papers, passed down to Marcia Philbrick by Winnie Crawford; privately held 2021 by Marcia Philbrick, , Seneca, KS.

7. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online August 2016), memorial for Lois Elida Crawford Maden (1909-1972), Find a Grave Memorial no. #28207797, created by Vaughan Mavir, citing Imperial Memorial Gardens, Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado; accompanying photograph by Cindy, Lois Elida Crawford Maden.

8. The Maden Family Our Lives Today 2008: Ralph Eugene Maden and Lois Elida Crawford, 2008 (Pueblo, Colorado: n.p., 2008), p. 6.

9. 1910 U.S. Census, Ford County, Kansas, population schedule, Dodge City, Ford County, Kanass, ED 45, Sheet 3B, Image 6 of 30, household 16, Crawford JF; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); NARA microfilm publication T624

10. 1915 Kansas State Census, Ford County, Kansas, population schedule, Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas, page 2, Image 73 of 279, household 9, Crawford J F; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); Kansas State Historical Society

11. 1920 U.S. Census, Ford County, Kansas, population schedule, Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas, ED 53, Sheet 7B, Image 14 of 22, dwelling 161, Crawford Judson F; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); NARA microfilm publication T625

12. 1925 Kansas Census, Ford County Kansas, Kansas State Census, Dodge City, Ford County, Kansas, page 14, Image 182 of 202, dwelling 3, Crawford J F; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017)

13. United States, School Yearbooks, 1880-2012, Lois Crawford, 1928; digital images, (www.ancestry.com : viewed online July 2017).

14. United States, School Yearbooks, 1880-2012, Lois Crawford, 1929; digital images, (www.ancestry.com).

15. Kansas, Central Division of Vital Statistics, Marriage License #44483 (24 January 1929), Ralph E. Maden and Lois E. Crawford; State of Kansas, Topeka, KS.

16. Ford County, Kansas, Book I: page 423, Lois Crawford / Ralph Maden; Ford County Clerk, Dodge City, Kansas.

17. “Births,” The Dodge City Journal (Dodge City, Kansas), 31 October 1929, page 1; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online 14 July 2025).

18. 1930 U.S. Census, Baca County, Colorado, population schedule, Regnier, Baca County, Colorado, 8, sheet 3A, Image 5 of 14, household 52, Ralph Maden; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online July 2017); NARA T626.

19. Social Security Administration, “Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007,” database on-line, Ancestry, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/60901/ : viewed online December 2016), Lawrence Elwin Maden.

20. “U.S. Obituary Collection, 1930-Current,” database online, http://www.oregonlive.com/obituaries, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2017), Lawrence E Maden.

21. “Lawrence E. Maden,” The Pueblo Chieftain (Pueblo, Colorado), 18 October 2007; transcription, GenealogyBank (genealogybank.com : viewed online 14 July 2025).

22. “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1,” Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : viewed online (September 2017), Leatha Jean Stumph.

23. “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1,” Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : viewed online (September 2017), Leatha J Stumph.

24. Leatha Jean Stumph, obituary,20 May 2013.Roselawn Funeral Home & Cemetery, Roselawn Funeral Home & Cemetery (https://www.roselawnpueblo.org/ : viewed online 14 July 2025)

25. 1940 U.S. Census, Baca County, Colorado, population schedule, Edler, Baca County, Colorado, ED 5-10, Sheet 3A, Image 5 of 10, household 48, Ralph Maden; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online July 2017); NARA T627.

26. Voter Registration Lists Public Record Filings, Historical Residential Records and other Household Database Listings, “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 2,” index, Ancestry, Ancestry.com (http://www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2017), Dallas D Maden.

27. “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1,” Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : viewed online (September 2017), Dallas D Maden.

28. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 29 December 2020), memorial for Dallas Duane Maden (1936-2018), Find a Grave Memorial no. #195357324, created by TD Miller, citing Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, Riverside County, California; accompanying photograph by landjnero, Dallas Duane Maden.

29. Dignity Memorial, Dignity Memorial Obituaries (https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries : viewed onilne 14 July 2025), Dallas Duane Maden.

30. Social Security Administration, “U.S. Social Security Death Index,” database, Ancestry, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online December 2016), David R Maden, , 1958.

31. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online December 2016), memorial for David Ralph Maden (1940-2013), Find a Grave Memorial no. #113816139, created by Esther Benesch, citing cremated, ;, David Ralph Maden.

32. Voter Registration Lists Public Record Filings, Historical Residential Records and other Household Database Listings, “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 2,” index David R Maden.

33. “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1,” Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : viewed online (September 2017), Esther W Benesch.

34. “Judson Foster Crawford,” digital image, The Hutchinson News (Hutchinson, Kansas), 23 February 1949, obituary; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online February 2017).

35. Polk’s Pueblo (Pueblo County, Colo.) City Directory 1952 (Omaha, Nebr: R. O. Polk & Co., 1952), page 224, Ralph Maden.

36. Polk’s Pueblo (Pueblo County, Colo.) City Directory 1954 (Omaha, NE: R. L. Polk & Col, 1954), p. 377, Ralph E. Maden; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2016).

37. Polk’s Pueblo (Pueblo County, Colo.) City Directory 1958 (Kansas City, MO: R. L. Polk & Co., 1958), p. 312, Maden Dallas D; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online December 2018).

38. Polk’s Pueblo City Directory 1960 (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1960), p 345, Maden Dallas D; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online December 2018).

39. Polk’s Pueblo (Pueblo County, Colo.) City Directory 1964 (Detroit, Michigan: R L Polk & Co., 1964), 376, Maden Lois; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online August 2017).

40. Polk’s Pueblo (Pueblo County, Colo.) City Directory 1966 (Kansas City, MO: R L. Polk & Co, 1966), 384; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online August 2017).

41. “Horton,” El Paso Times (El Paso, Texas), 3 November 1971, page 19; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online October 2019).

42. Lois Elida Maden, death certificate #01653 (17 January 1972), State of Colorado, Colorado Department of Health, Denver, Colorado.

43. Polk’s Pueblo (Pueblo County, Colo.) City Directory1961 (Kansas City, Missouri: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1961), p. 398, Maden, Ralph; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online December 2016).

44. Social Security Administration, “U.S. Social Security Death Index”, database, Ancestry.com, Ralph Maden, 523-40-4714, 1951.

45. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online December 2016), memorial for Ralph Eugene Maden (1908-1976), Find a Grave Memorial no. #28207790,

46. “U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947,” database, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2017), Ralph Eugene Maden.

47. Polk’s Pueblo (Pueblo County, Colo.) City Directory (Detroit, MI: R. L. Polk & Co, 1964), [City], page 376, Ralph E Maden; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2017).

48. Social Security Administration, “U.S. Social Security Death Index”, database, Ancestry.com, Ralph Maden, 523-40-4714, 1951.

49. “Deaths: Ralph Maden,” digital image, Garden City Telegram (Garden City, Kansas), 24 September 1976, obituary; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online April 2017).

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 27, 2025
SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/27/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-164/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!
Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) What five reference books (and only 5) would you recommend to a beginning researcher to have on their bookshelf?

This is a HARD question—especially since I haven't purchased a genealogy reference book in quite a few years! When I began my genealogy journey back in 1978, the first book recommended to me was the same one Randy listed as his #1 pick: *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy* by Val Greenwood. I bought it and made a sincere effort to read it, but I have to admit—it didn't really resonate with me at the time.

The reference book I used most often was *The Handybook for Genealogists*. It was my go-to for writing letters to county courthouses, as it not only provided addresses but also listed which records were housed in which offices. While Google can now provide courthouse addresses in seconds, it often can't tell you *which department* holds *what records*—like whether marriage licenses are in the probate office or clerk's office. Unfortunately, due to the rise of online resources, this book is no longer being updated, so I wouldn't recommend it to today's beginners.

So, what would I recommend to someone just beginning their genealogy journey? Here's my updated list—books and beyond:

1. **Your DNA Guide: The Book** by Diahan Southard
   A step-by-step, beginner-friendly guide to understanding and working with DNA results. Easy to follow and extremely practical.
2. **Evidence Explained** by Elizabeth Shown Mills
   While it might seem overwhelming at first, it's an essential reference for understanding the importance of citing your sources—and how to do it correctly.

Since we're limiting this to *five*, and I don't rely on many books these days, I'd round out my list with three key *resources* I believe every beginner should explore:

3. **Join a local genealogy society**
   The support, networking, and knowledge you gain from fellow researchers can be invaluable.
4. **Subscribe to a genealogy magazine** (like *Family Tree Magazine*)
   Regular articles can introduce you to new tools, techniques, and inspiration.
5. **Watch YouTube channels, read blogs, and attend virtual events like RootsTech**
   The genealogy community is vibrant and generous online. You can learn a lot by following experienced researchers and staying up to date.

Books are important, but the best tool a beginning genealogist can have is *curiosity*—and a willingness to keep learning.

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 28, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/28/mondays-diggings-8/

Today's find is another letter from Mildred Barby of Oklahoma regarding our BRILES ancestry.

Sept. 22

Dear Mike and Marcia,

I am sorry I haven't recognized the letter and genealogy material you sent and requested information on the family tree.

I plan to write and try to give you as much help on our family tree as I can. However, due to some health problems I haven't been able to get it done, also.

Fred and I had lots of fence to repair after the big snows we had last winter. We'd not seen a winter like it for many years.

I had an accident with our pickup in July and it put me in the hospital for a few days. I saw a rattle snake in the road and I backed up to run over it. I was trying to use the right side mirror and you know what kind of true picture you get from it (we always have them removed, but hadn't

page 2

done it on this new pickup). The culvert I fell in, upside down, was not marked and weeds and a tree was hiding it.

I got a concussion, hurt shoulder, neck, & some ribs. I was lucky in spite of getting knocked out. My sister Letta Mae and Fred's brother were just coming over a hill and they saw me topple in. When I gained consciousness, they were able to pull me out through a door that they could open enough to pull me out. This injury damaged my memory, but has improved a lot. I guess this type of injury causes the brain to swell and not being able to remember is normal.

We didn't get to go to the Briles Reunion, because of the accident, also my son's two daughters, Shannon & Erin, were chosen to play on the AAU (national) basketball summer basketball teams. Erin played at Boulder, Co., but due to the altitude, I was unable to go.

Lettie Mae and Paul went. I was wanting to go, but I didn't want to

3

get sick, so I stayed at home.

> We have our wheat planted and are planning to work our young steers & heifers. After this we will settle in for our winter work (hand feeding the older cows).
>
> What did you two kids do for the summer? We hope you found it enjoyable. Did you have any bad storms and flood waters? We certainly hope not. I felt so sorry for people who had to cope with all the problems the rains created.
>
> I'll close and I hope to be able to get the genealogy records sent as soon as I can get them done.
>
> Love & best wishes,
> Micky & Fred Barby
>
> We will celebrate my 70th birthday Sept. 24 at my niece's at Herdsity, Ok.

Although this letter doesn't include much genealogy information, it offers a rich glimpse into Micky's life at the time. The mention of heavy rains was a strong reminder of the Great Flood of 1993.

That summer, my husband and I vacationed with my parents, my brothers, and their families in Estes Park, Colorado.

On the way home, my brother Dave decided to keep driving while my husband and I stopped in Salina for the night. Since we had been out of state for a week, we were unaware of just how severe the recent rains had been.

That evening, we watched the Topeka news and learned that major flooding was starting to impact Kansas. The next morning, we chose to head north and then east rather than risk being stranded by closed roads. Looking back, that was a wise decision. We managed to cross the Republican River just before it closed the highway, allowing us to avoid most of the flooding and arrive home safely.

Letters like Micky's remind me that family history isn't just about names and dates on a chart — it's about the real, everyday lives our relatives led. Through her updates about farm work, accidents, and family basketball games, we get a glimpse of her resilience and the strong connections that held the family together.

As we continue to piece together our Briles ancestry, these personal stories help us appreciate the challenges and joys our family experienced along the way. They remind us to cherish not only our ancestors' records but also the handwritten letters and memories that connect us to them in a more personal way.

James Crawford of Cathey River Area

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 29, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/29/james-crawford-of-cathey-river-area/

The Story of James Crawford and Elizabeth Robertson: Early Settlers in Augusta County, Virginia

Genealogy research often reveals more than names and dates — it uncovers the rich stories of courage, migration, and community that shape our families. One such story is that of James Crawford and his wife, Elizabeth Robertson Crawford, early pioneers in Augusta County, Virginia.

From Scotland to the New World

James Crawford was born in 1719 in Cadder, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He was christened on 31 May 1719 in Garnqueen, Cadder Parish. [1–5]

Around 1740, James made a momentous journey across the Atlantic, settling in the Colony of Virginia along the Middle River in Augusta County [1,6] That same year, he married Elizabeth Robertson, who was born in 1721. [1,9]

Building a Family on the Frontier

James and Elizabeth established a family soon after their marriage. Their daughter Jane Crawford was born in 1741, [1] followed by their son James Crawford Jr. in August 1746 in Staunton, Augusta County. [1]

In 1747, James secured land in Augusta County, filing entry papers on 13 August, marking his growing role as a landowner and settler. [7–8]

A Life Cut Short

Tragically, James's life was brief. He died before February 1750 at about 31 years old in Middle River, Augusta County. [1,3,9]

In February 1750, the Augusta County Court ordered an inventory of his estate. Robert Page, John Anderson, Samuel Henderson, and Thomas Gordon were appointed to appraise his possessions. [10]

The inventory, conducted on 18 May 1751, offers a detailed window into the Crawfords' life. It included cattle, sheep, hogs, multiple horses and colts, plows and farm tools, a man's saddle, beds and blankets, kitchen items, iron pots, a spinning wheel, and more. [11] These items reflect the hard work and resilience required to build a home on the Virginia frontier.

The inventory was returned and recorded on 29 May 1751, [12] and the sale of the estate was finalized and documented in November 1751. [13]

Elizabeth's Strength and Later Years

After James's death, Elizabeth stepped forward to administer the estate, along with George Anderson, Robert Patterson, and Patrick Crawford. Together, they posted bond to ensure the faithful management of James's affairs. [10,14]

Elizabeth appears again in the Augusta County records in March 1773, as a defendant in a case brought by James Brown and his wife Jane — possibly her daughter. [15]

Elizabeth Robertson Crawford died in 1787 at about 66 years old, leaving behind a legacy of perseverance in early Virginia.

Sources

1. "Crawford," *Miami Valley Genealogies* Vol. 2: Families A-K, Brien Lindsay (Dayton, Ohio: Brien, maybe 1960), p. 49–53.
2. Brien Lindsay, *Miami Valley Genealogies: 145 Family Records*, Vol. 2: Families A-J (n.p.: n.p., n.d.), p. 58 (image 456 of 1204); digitized microfilm, FamilySearch, DGS #007712477 : viewed online 20 June 2025.
3. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online 11 July 2025), memorial for James Crawford (1719–1751), Find a Grave Memorial no. 228285377, created by Patricia Kross.
4. "Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950," Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : Cadder, Lanark, Scotland, viewed online 11 July 2025), James Crawford.
5. "Select Counties, Scotland, Church of Scotland, Baptisms, 1615–1854," Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : Cadder, Lanark, Scotland, viewed online 11 July 2025), James Crawford.
6. *Historical Papers and Addresses of the Lancaster County Historical Society*: Volumes 25–27, (Lancaster, PA: Lancaster County Historical Society, 1921), p. 90; play.google.com : viewed online 7 June 2020.
7. We Relate (werelate.org : viewed online 12 July 2025), James Crawford.
8. Virginia, Augusta County. Deed books, 1745–1866; index to deeds 1745–1930. Film #DGS 8189996 item 1. James Crawford, August 1747; Book 1: p. 283–286; images 151–153 of 286, digitized images, FamilySearch www.familysearch.org : viewed online 12 July 2025.
9. Lyman Chalkey, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia* (Roselyn, Virginia: The Commonwealth Company, 1912), p. 370; digital images, FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org : viewed online 21 January 2023.
10. Virginia, Augusta County. Court Order Books, 1745–1867. Film #7893723. James Crawford, Feb 1750; Vol. 2: p. 520; image 226 of 275, digitized images, FamilySearch www.familysearch.org : viewed online 10 July 2025.
11. Virginia, Augusta County. Will books, 1745–1871; index to wills, 1745–1903. Film #7643866. James Crawford, 28 May 1751; Vol. 1: pp. 192–193 of 587, digitized images, FamilySearch www.familysearch.org : viewed online 9 July 2025.
12. Virginia, Augusta County. Court Order Books, 1745–1867. Film #7893723 Item 2. James Crawford, 29 May 1751; Vol. 2 (1747–1751): p. 572; image 452 of 756, digitized images, FamilySearch www.familysearch.org : viewed online 9 July 2025.
13. Virginia, Augusta County. Court Order Books, 1745–1867. Film #7893723. James Crawford, Nov 1751; Vol. 3: p. 601 of 756, digitized images, FamilySearch www.familysearch.org : viewed online 9 July 2025.
14. Virginia, Augusta County. Will books, 1745–1871; index to wills, 1745–1903. Film #7643866. James Crawford, Feb 1750; Vol. 1: p. 300; image 168 of 302, digitized images, FamilySearch www.familysearch.org : viewed online 9 July 2025.
15. Virginia, Augusta County. Court Order Books, 1745–1867. Film #DGS 7893727 Item 3. James Crawford, March 1773; Vol. 15: p. 52; image 38 of 285, digitized images, FamilySearch www.familysearch.org : viewed online 12 July 2025.

We Relate

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 30, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/30/we-relate/

Have you ever explored the WeRelate website?

While I had previously come across some information about the Germanna colony on WeRelate, I wasn't fully aware of the wealth of resources available there. Recently, in my quest to identify ancestors of my Kentucky CRAWFORD family, I began researching a James Crawford family who settled in Augusta County, Virginia. As I followed various leads and records, I stumbled upon a page on WeRelate dedicated to this James Crawford.

This page included information that matched what I had found in books and primary records — but it also offered something completely new to me: a map showing James Crawford's land in relation to neighboring landowners of the time.

James Crawford, of Augusta Co., VA
b.1719 of Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia
d.Abt 1750 Augusta County, Virginia
Family tree
Facts and Events
Name James Crawford, of Augusta Co., VA
Gender Male
Birth[1] 1719 of Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia
Marriage 1740 Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia to Elizabeth Robertson
Death[1] Abt 1750 Augusta County, Virginia
James Crawford was one of the Early Settlers of Augusta County, Virginia
Early Land Acquisition in Augusta County, VA
[edit]
Parents and Siblings
(edit)
F. Col. William Crawford
1691 - 1761
M. Mary Douglas
1703 - 1786
m. 1714
1. Alexander Crawford, I
1715 - 1764
2. Edward Crawford
1717 -
3. James Crawford, of Augusta Co., VA
1719 - Abt 1750

Curious, I dug deeper into WeRelate and discovered a page devoted to the early settlers of Augusta County, Virginia. Thanks to this resource, I now have a much better understanding of the history and geography of the area where my Crawford ancestors may have lived.

As I explored the site further, I realized that WeRelate is not just a source of information but also a collaborative platform where genealogists can share and connect their research. I truly appreciate the collaborative concept and the detailed content I've found related to Augusta County.

However, there is a learning curve to using WeRelate effectively. This leaves me wondering: Is it worth investing the time to learn and contribute to another collaborative site to share my research?

I'd love to hear your thoughts! Have you used WeRelate? Do you think it's worth the effort to learn and participate on another genealogy platform?

Cleaning Up Citations

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
July 31, 2025
RootsMagic
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/07/31/cleaning-up-citations/

Are Duplicate Citations Hiding in Your RootsMagic File?

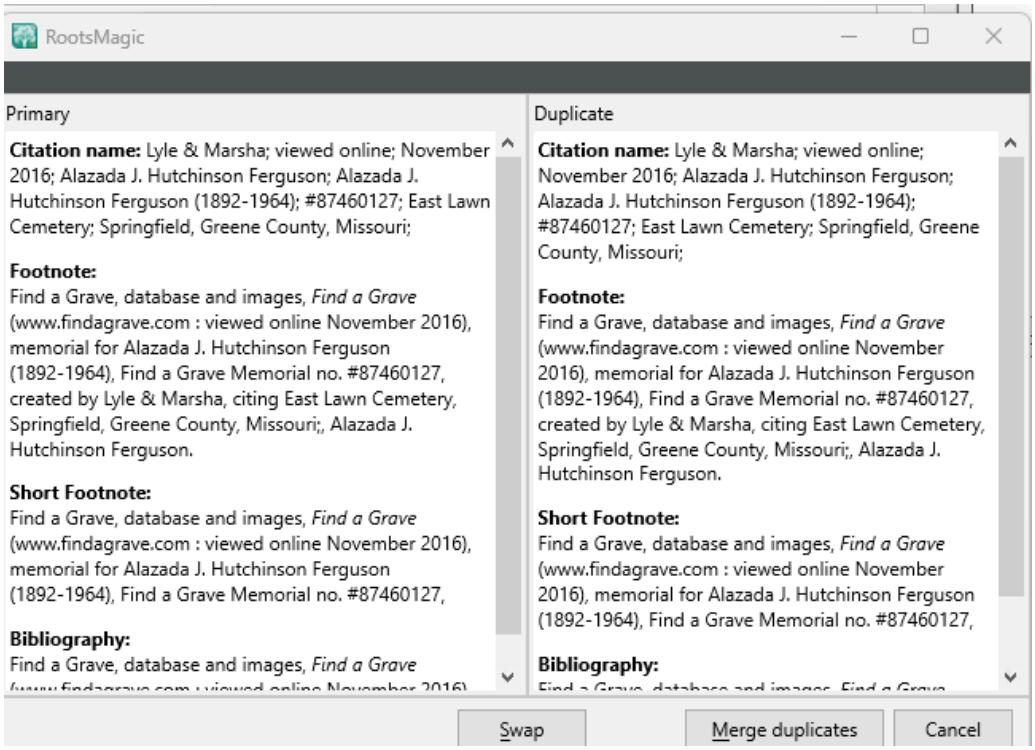
Do you have years' worth of research stored in your genealogy database? If so, there's a good chance you've accumulated some duplicate citations along the way. It's easy to unknowingly enter the same source more than once—especially with frequently used sources like Find a Grave.

RootsMagic offers a built-in feature to automatically merge duplicate citations. However, I've been hesitant to use it, worried it might combine citations that are actually unique. Recently, though, as I've been creating ABC Biographies following Randy Seaver's process, I've discovered that this workflow also gives me the opportunity to clean up and streamline my sources and citations.

While working on one such biography, I noticed several citations pointing to the same Find a Grave memorial. Fortunately, RootsMagic provides a way to merge citations one at a time—offering a safer, more controlled approach than the automatic merge feature. With thousands of Find a Grave citations in my file, reviewing each one manually is a daunting task. But I've found that citations used only once are a helpful clue that duplication may be present.

Here's how I merge individual citations in RootsMagic:

1. **Highlight the citation** I want to keep.
2. Click the **three vertical dots** (⋮) at the top of the citation section.
3. Select **Merge Citations** from the dropdown menu.
4. Choose the second citation to compare.
5. A side-by-side window appears, letting me verify the contents of both citations.
6. If they match, I click **Merge Duplicates** to complete the process.


RootsMagic
Primary
Citation name: Lyle & Marsha; viewed online; November 2016; Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson; Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson (1892-1964); #87460127; East Lawn Cemetery; Springfield, Greene County, Missouri;
Footnote:
Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online November 2016), memorial for Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson (1892-1964), Find a Grave Memorial no. #87460127, created by Lyle & Marsha, citing East Lawn Cemetery, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri;, Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson.
Short Footnote:
Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online November 2016), memorial for Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson (1892-1964), Find a Grave Memorial no. #87460127,
Bibliography:
Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave
Duplicate
Citation name: Lyle & Marsha; viewed online; November 2016; Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson; Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson (1892-1964); #87460127; East Lawn Cemetery; Springfield, Greene County, Missouri;
Footnote:
Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online November 2016), memorial for Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson (1892-1964), Find a Grave Memorial no. #87460127, created by Lyle & Marsha, citing East Lawn Cemetery, Springfield, Greene County, Missouri;, Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson.
Short Footnote:
Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online November 2016), memorial for Alazada J. Hutchinson Ferguson (1892-1964), Find a Grave Memorial no. #87460127,
Bibliography:
Swap
Merge duplicates
Cancel

While it would be overwhelming to clean up all duplicates at once, I've found that these issues become more visible when working through narrative reports. So for now, I'll continue using the process of writing ABC Biographies as an opportunity to clean up my citations—one at a time.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 1, 2025
Henry County Illinois,Mentzer
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/01/friday-find-88/

Have you used FamilySearch's Full Text Search?
If not, you *need* to try it out! I've just started exploring this new tool and already uncovered a wealth of records I might never have found otherwise. It's powerful, fast, and surprisingly intuitive. However, like any tool, it has its limitations—and today's Friday Find highlights exactly that.

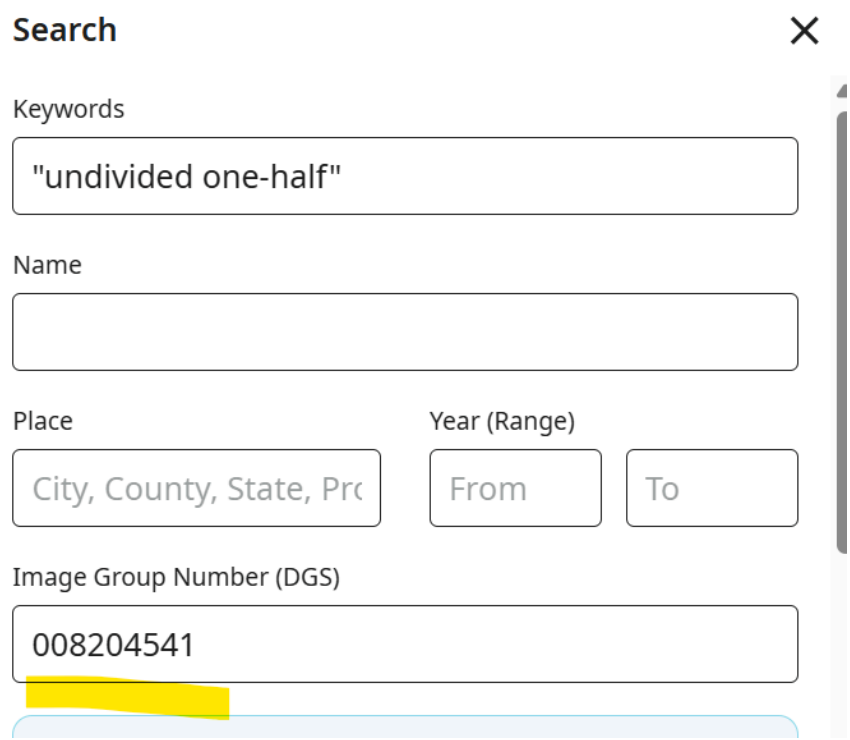
The assumption is tempting: if the search can find a deed for your ancestor, surely it can find *all* the deeds for that name or location, right? Not quite. There are a few reasons why that assumption might lead to frustration:

- The record set may not have been filmed and therefore isn't in the FamilySearch collection at all.
- The record might be restricted—meaning it's not viewable or searchable from home.
- The record exists but wasn't indexed well enough to be located through the full text search.

Here's my example: I have a photocopy of an 1866 Henry County, Illinois deed where Rufus Mentzer and his wife Eliza sold lots in Kewanee to George Scott. Since the new experimental search includes transcriptions, I hoped to use it to generate a clean, copyable transcript. But no matter how I searched, I couldn't find the record.

My photocopy didn't have a full citation or film number, but it *did* include the book and page number. That led me to Henry County Deed Book 38, found on FamilySearch film #008204541.

With the film number in hand, I returned to the full text search. Still, no luck. Searches for “Eliza,” “Mentzer,” and even phrases like “undivided one-half” came up empty. The deed simply wasn’t findable through the tool.



In the end, while I couldn’t use the Full Text Search to transcribe the document, I walked away with an important reminder:
As exciting and helpful as this new feature is, it’s not a complete substitute for old-fashioned research. It’s a great starting point—but not the final word.

Even though the deed didn’t appear in the Full Text Search results, I was still able to locate it the traditional way—by browsing the digitized film using the book and page number listed on my photocopy. Since this deed is a valuable piece of my Mentzer family research, I’m including a full transcription below for reference. It not only documents a land sale but also offers a glimpse into the legal language and property processes of the time.

> **This Indenture**, WITNESSETH THAT **Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A. Mentzer his wife of Kewanee, Henry County, Illinois**,
> **Grantor(s)** herein, in consideration of the indebtedness hereinafter mentioned, and One ($1) Dollar to them in hand, paid by **George H. Scott**,
> and **Grantee**, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell, Remise, Release and Convey unto the said Grantee the following described Lot, Piece or Parcel of Land, situate in the **Kewanee** County of **Henry**, and State of Illinois, to wit:
>
> > *The undivided one-half of Lots Three (3), Four (4), Five (5), Six (6), and Nine (9) in Block Four (4) in Blishes addition to the town of Kewanee.*
>
> (50¢ U.S. Stamp affixed)

To have and to hold the same, with all the privileges thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim or demand, in and to the same, either now or which may be hereafter acquired unto the said Grantee, his heirs and assigns,
In trust, nevertheless, for the following purpose: Whereas, the said **Rufus Mentzer**,
Grantor herein, is justly indebted upon a **Promissory Note**, bearing even date herewith, payable to the order of **George H. Scott**, in nine months after with ten per cent interest per annum (for the sum of **three hundred dollars**),
Now, in case of default in the payment of said note, or any part thereof, or the interest accruing thereon, according to the tenor and effect thereof, or in the payment of any taxes or assessments, ordinary or special, which may be levied or assessed against said premises, during the continuance hereof, then and in that case the whole of said Note, both principal and interest, shall thereupon become immediately due and payable at the option of the holder of said Note, and on the application of the legal holder of the said **Promissory Note**, the said Grantee, **George H. Scott**, (full power hereby given) or his legal representatives, after having advertised such sale **twenty** days in a newspaper published in **Kewanee**, or by posting up written or printed notices in four (4) public places in the county where said premises are situated, (personal notice being hereby expressly waived), shall sell the said premises or any part thereof, and all the right and equity of redemption of the said Grantor, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns therein, at public vendue, to the highest bidder for cash, at public sale before front door of Post Office in said town of Kewanee at the time appointed in said advertisement, or may adjourn the sale from time to time at discretion, and the said Attorney of the said Grantor, for such purpose hereby, constituted irrevocable, or in the name of the said Grantee or his legal representatives, shall execute and deliver to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, a Deed or Deeds for the conveyance in fee of the premises sold, and shall apply the proceeds of sale (1st), to the payment of all advances made by the party of the second part for taxes and assessments; and expenses for advertising, selling, and conveying, as aforesaid, including Attorney's Fees; and (2d), the amount due on said note; (3d), rendering the overplus, if any there be, to the said Grantor or his legal representatives, at the office of said Grantee in Kewanee, and it shall be the duty of the purchaser to see to the application of the purchase money.

And the said **Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A. Mentzer**,
party ofthe first part, hereby expressly waive, release and relinquish unto said part of the second part, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all right, title, claim, interest and benefit whatever, in and to the above described premises and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State pertaining to the exemption of homesteads: **PROVIDED**, That the said Grantor and their heirs and assigns may hold and enjoy said premises, and the rents, issues and profits thereof, until default shall be made as aforesaid, and when the said note and all expenses accruing thereby shall be fully paid, the said Grantee George H Scott or his legal representatives, shall **RECONVEY** all the estate acquired hereby to the said premises, or any part thereof, then remaining unsold, to (and at the cost of the said Grantor or his heirs or assigns.)

And the said **Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A. Mentzer**,
Grantor covenants with the said Grantee and his legal representatives and assigns, that he seized in fee of the said premises, and
has good right to convey the same as in form aforesaid, that they are free from all liens or encumbrance of whatever name or nature, that they will, and his heirs, assigns, and legal representatives, shall **FOREVER WARRANT AND DEFEND** the same against all claims whatsoever, and will pay all taxes or assessments levied or assessed on the said premises, or any part thereof, during the continuance hereof, and pay the same ten days before the day of sale therefor.

WITNESS THE HAND AND SEAL of the said Grantor this **fourteenth** day of **August** in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-six.

IN PRESENCE OF

(Signed)
R Mentzer
Eliza Mentzer

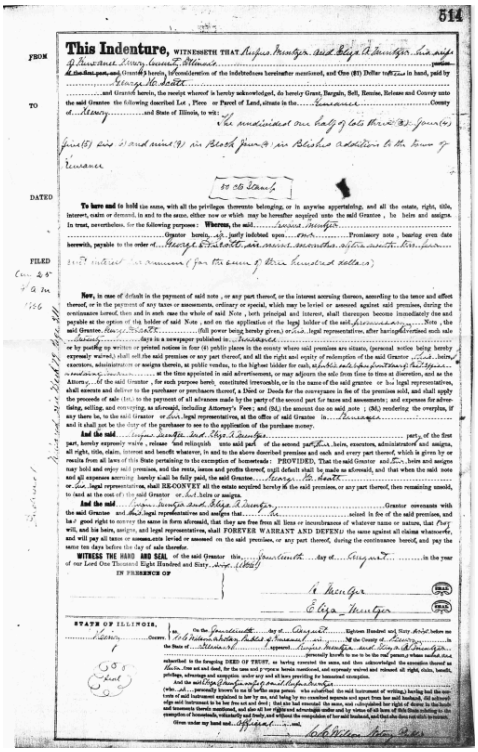
STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Henry County } SS.

On the **fourteenth** day of **August**, Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-Six before me **C. C. Wilson**, a Notary Public of **Kewanee** in the County of **Henry** and State of **Illinois**,
appeared Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A Menzer personally known to me to be the real persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing Deed of Trust, as having executed the same, and acknowledged the execution thereof as their free act and deed, for the uses and purposes herein mentioned, and expressly waived and released all right, claim, benefit, privilege, advantage and exemption under any and all laws providing for the homestead exemption.

And the said **Eliza A. Mentzer**, wife of said **Rufus Mentzer**, (who is personally known to me to be the same person who subscribed the said instrument of writing) having had the contents of said instrument explained to her by me and being examined separate and apart from her said husband, did acknowledge said instrument to be her free act and deed; that she had executed the same, and relinquished her right of dower in the lands and tenements therein mentioned, and also all her rights and advantages under and by firtue of all laws of this State relating to the exemption of homesteads, voluntarily and freely, and without the cumpulsion of her said husband, and that she does not wish to retract.

Given under my hand and official seal

(Signed) C C Wilson, Notary Public



514

FROM

TO

DATED

FILED

This Indenture, WITNESSETH THAT Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A Mentzer his wife of Kewanee Henry County Illinois ... parties of the first part, and Grantee's heirs, in consideration of the Indebtedness hereinafter mentioned, and One ($1) Dollar to ... in hand, paid by ... George N. Scott ... and Grantee hereby, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell, Remise, Release and Convey unto the said Grantee the following described Lot, Piece or Parcel of Land, situate in the ... Kewanee ... County of ... Henry ... and State of Illinois, to wit: The undivided one half of lots three (3), four (4), five (5) six (6) and nine (9) in Block four (4) in Bleiches addition to the town of Kewanee

[10 25 Stamps]

To have and to hold the same, with all the privileges thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim or demand, in and to the same, either now or which may be hereafter acquired unto the said Grantee, he heirs and assigns. In trust, nevertheless, for the following purposes: **Whereas,** the said ... Rufus Mentzer ... Grantor herein, is justly indebted upon ... one ... Promissory note, bearing even date herewith, payable to the order of ... George N. Scott ... three months after date ... for ... Three hundred dollars (for the consideration of three hundred dollars)

Now, in case of default in the payment of said note, or any part thereof, or the interest accruing thereon, according to the tenor and effect thereof, or in the payment of any taxes or assessments, ordinary or special, which may be levied or assessed against said premises, during the continuance hereof, then and in such case the whole of said Note, both principal and interest, shall thereupon become immediately due and payable at the option of the holder of said Note, and on the application of the legal holder of the said ... Promissory ... Note, the said Grantee ... Scott ... (full power being hereby given,) or his ... legal representatives, after having advertised such sale ... days in a newspaper published in ... Kewanee ... or by posting up written or printed notices in four (4) public places in the county where said premises are situate, (personal notice being hereby expressly waived,) shall sell the said premises or any part thereof, and all the right and equity of redemption of the said Grantor ... his ... heirs, executors, administrators or assigns thereto, at public vendue, to the highest bidder for cash, at which sale ... purchaser ... shall not be ... responsible ... at the time appointed in said advertisement, or may adjourn the sale from time to time at discretion, and as the Attorney ... of the said Grantee ... for such purpose hereby constituted irrevocable, or in the name of the said grantee or his legal representatives, shall execute and deliver to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, a Deed or Deeds for the conveyance in fee of the premises sold, and shall apply the proceeds of sale (first) to the payment of all advances made by the party of the second part for taxes and assessments; and expenses for advertising, selling, and conveying, as aforesaid, including Attorney's Fees; and (2d,) the amount due on said note; (3d,) rendering the overplus, if any there be, to the said Grantor or his ... legal representatives, at the office of said Grantee in ... Kewanee ... and it shall not be the duty of the purchaser to see to the application of the purchase money.

And the said ... Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A Mentzer ... party ... of the first part, hereby expressly waive, release and relinquish unto said part ... of the second part ... his ... heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, all right, title, claim, interest and benefit whatever, in and to the above described premises and each and every part thereof, which is given by or results from all laws of this State pertaining to the exemption of homesteads: PROVIDED, That the said Grantor and ... his ... heirs and assigns may hold and enjoy said premises, and the rents, issues and profits thereof, until default shall be made as aforesaid, and that when the said note and all expenses accruing hereby shall be fully paid, the said Grantee ... George N. Scott ... or his ... legal representatives, shall RE-CONVEY all the estate acquired hereby in the said premises, or any part thereof, then remaining unsold, to said at the cost of the said Grantor or his heirs or assigns.

And the said ... Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A Mentzer ... Grantor covenants with the said Grantee and his ... legal representatives and assigns that ... he ... seized in fee of the said premises, and has a good right to convey the same in form aforesaid, that they are free from all liens or incumbrances of whatever name or nature, that ... they will, and his heirs, assigns, and legal representatives, shall FOREVER WARRANT AND DEFEND the same against all claims whatsoever, and will pay all taxes or assessments levied or assessed on the said premises, or any part thereof, during the continuance hereof, and pay the same ten days before the day of sale thereof.

WITNESS THE HAND AND SEAL of the said Grantor this ... fourteenth ... day of ... August ... in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-six (1866)

IN PRESENCE OF

R Mentzer (Seal)

Eliza Mentzer (Seal)

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss.
County. }

On the fourteenth day of August Eighteen Hundred and Sixty-six before me ... a Notary Public of Kewanee in the County of Henry in the State of Illinois personally ... Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A Mentzer ... personally known to me to be the real person ... whose names ... subscribed to the foregoing DEED OF TRUST, as having executed the same, and then acknowledged the execution thereof as ... free act and deed, for the uses and purposes herein mentioned, and expressly waived and released all right, claim, benefit, privilege, advantage and exemption under any and all laws providing for homestead exemption.

And the said Eliza ... wife ... of said Rufus ... on an examination ... separate and apart from ... husband, ... (who ... personally known to me as the same person ... who subscribed the said instrument of writing,) having had the contents of said instrument explained to her by me, said being by me consulted separate and apart from her said husband, did acknowledge said instrument to be her free act and deed; that she had executed the same, and relinquished her right of dower in the lands and tenements therein mentioned, and also all her rights and advantages under and by virtue of all laws of this State relating to the exemption of homesteads, voluntarily and freely, and without the compulsion of her said husband, and that she does not wish to recede.

Given under my hand and ... official ... seal.

C C Wilson Notary Public

Henry County IL
Deed Book 38 p514

William E Copper and Harriet L Copper of City of Ginseo State of IL

Rufus Mentzer and Eliza A Mentzer his wife of Kewanee Henry Co. IL

to

George N Scott

$1.00

undivided ½ of lots 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 in Block 4 in Bleiches addition to town of Kewanee

Promissory note for $300.00

dower released by Eliza

14 Aug 1866

ABC Song: Lois Elida Crawford Maden

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 2, 2025
ABC Biography,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/02/abc-song-lois-elida-crawford-maden/

Using Randy Seaver's ABC Biography process, I asked ChatGPT to write song lyrics about my great aunt, Lois Crawford Maden. Below are the lyris for Lois' Song.

"Lois' Song"

Verse 1
Born on the plains where the sunsets run wide,
Dodge City cradle and Kansas sky.
A little girl laughing down Avenue G,
Dreaming of places she'd someday see.

Chorus
Oh, Lois, strong and kind,
With an open heart and a steady mind.
From the wheat fields to Colorado's light,
You carried your love through every fight.

Verse 2
School days dancing in that high school hall,
Married young in winter's call.
Eight little hearts she raised so true,
Through dust storms, dreams, and mountain views.

Chorus
Oh, Lois, strong and kind,
With an open heart and a steady mind.
From the wheat fields to Colorado's light,
You carried your love through every fight.

Bridge
In a Pueblo home on Elmwood Lane,
She worked and she prayed through joy and pain.

A faithful hand and a gentle soul,
Left stories and love to hold.

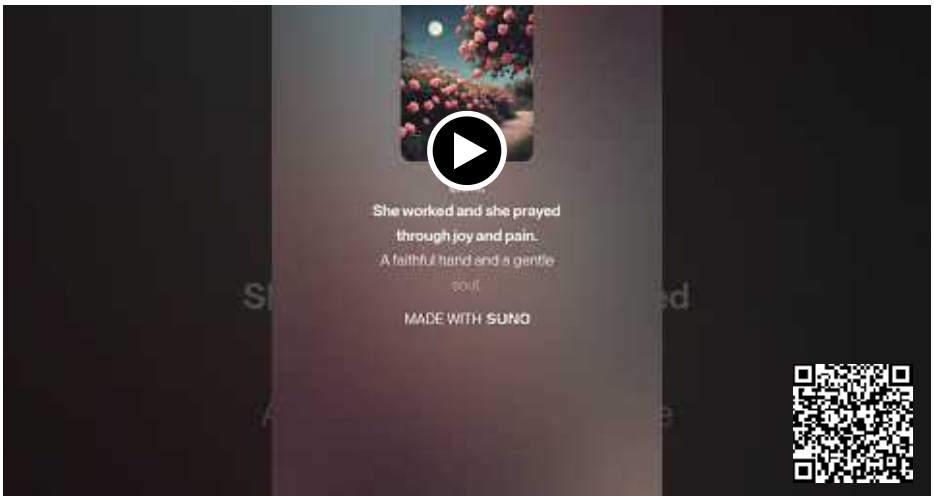
Verse 3
She found her peace in church pews' glow,
A life of service, a heart that knows.
A mother's touch, a guiding grace,
Now echoes on in every face.

Final Chorus
Oh, Lois, strong and kind,
With an open heart and a steady mind.
From the wheat fields to Colorado's light,
You carried your love through every fight.

Outro
Now in the gardens where roses climb,
Her spirit whispers through all of time.
Lois, we carry your song tonight,
A beacon of love in the soft moonlight.

The AI app, Suno, created the following song from the lyrics.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=RFXBmiAdBjE



Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 3, 2025
Uncategorized
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/03/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-165/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Have you been down a genealogy rabbit hole lately? What was it, and what did you find? [If not, go find a rabbit hole! Try your FamilySearch Notifications or Ancestry.com Photos or Stories.]

Before attempting to answer this question, I asked Google about 'genealogy rabbit holes'.

> In genealogy, a "rabbit hole" refers to getting sidetracked during research, where a seemingly minor discovery leads to a deep dive into a new, often unrelated, area of family history. This can involve becoming engrossed in a new line of ancestors, a fascinating historical event, or a seemingly minor detail that then consumes significant research time. It's characterized by losing focus on the original research question and getting lost in a web of new connections and details.

Besides providing a description of a rabbit hole, there were links to quite a few sites about genealogy rabbit holes, including the following:

- Genealogy Rabbit Holes
- 5 Steps to Turn Genealogy Rabbit Holes into Productive Searches
- How to Stay Focuesed in Your Genealogy Research

So, have I been down a 'genealogy rabbit hole' lately? It depends on one's interpretation. While some might consider my recent research activities going down a rabbit hole, I do not. While I have not been researching an ancestor or a collateral line, my current line of research is to figure out how I might be related to yDNA matches in hopes of identifying the parents of James Crawford (1772-1854) [L7F6-MWJ].

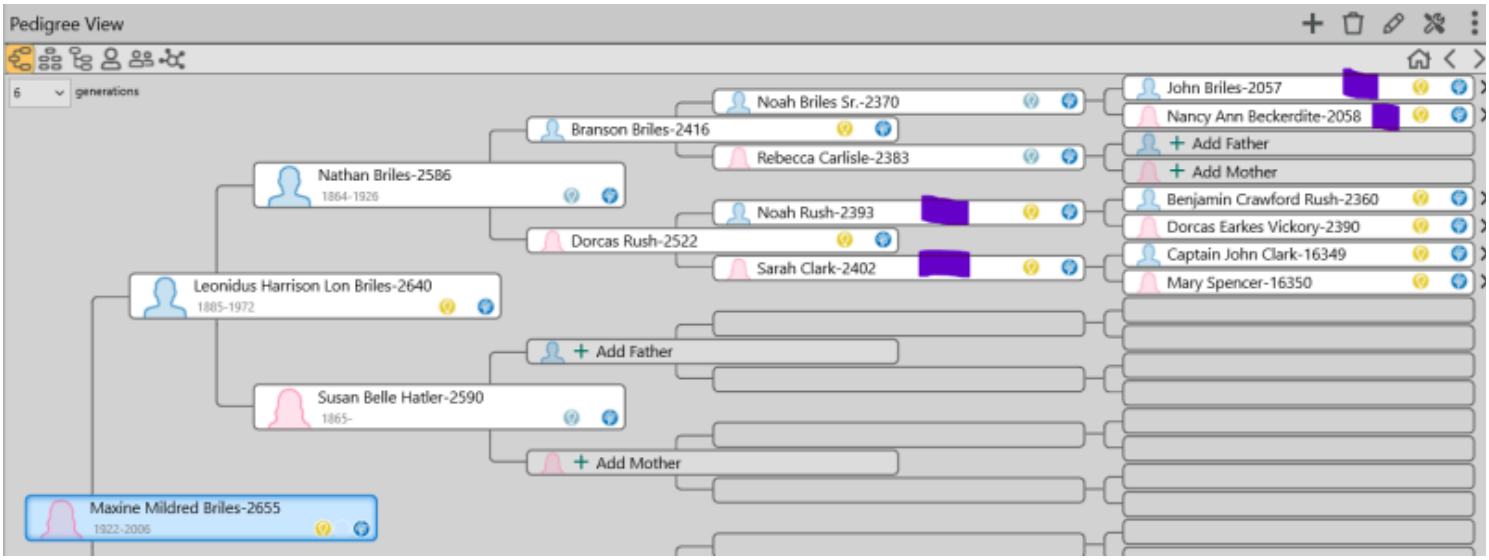
Thus, I've been researching James Crawford [G1R7-CPT], his wife Elizabeth Robertson and their descendants. According to the CRAWFORD FAMILY information in the publication Miamia Valley Genealogies, James is a brother to Alexander Crawford [LRVH-5GV]. I was hoping my research would lead to a candidate for yDNA testing. Unfortunately, it appears that there are no male descendants of this James Crawford.

Monday's Diggings

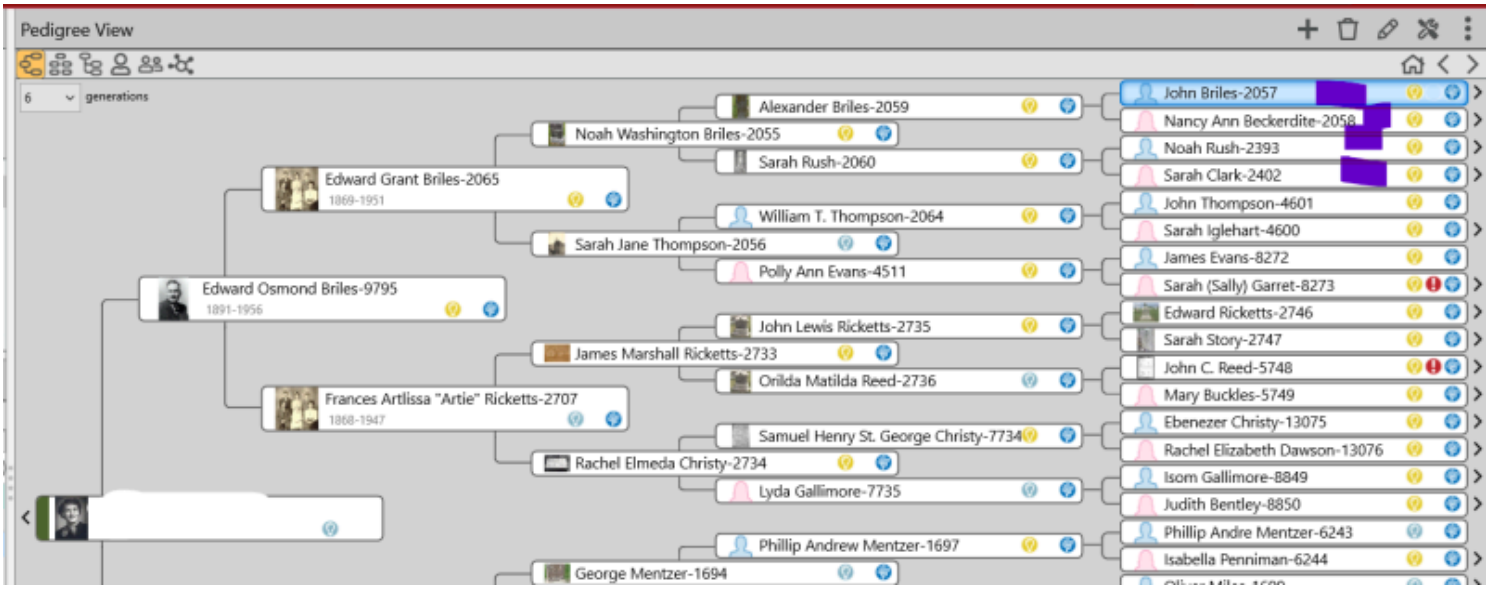
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 4, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/04/mondays-diggings-9/

According to my RootsMagic software, Mildred is my 4th cousin once removed. However, the FamilySearch tree suggests we are 3rd cousins twice removed. So which is it? Or could both be correct, depending on which common ancestors are used to calculate the relationship?

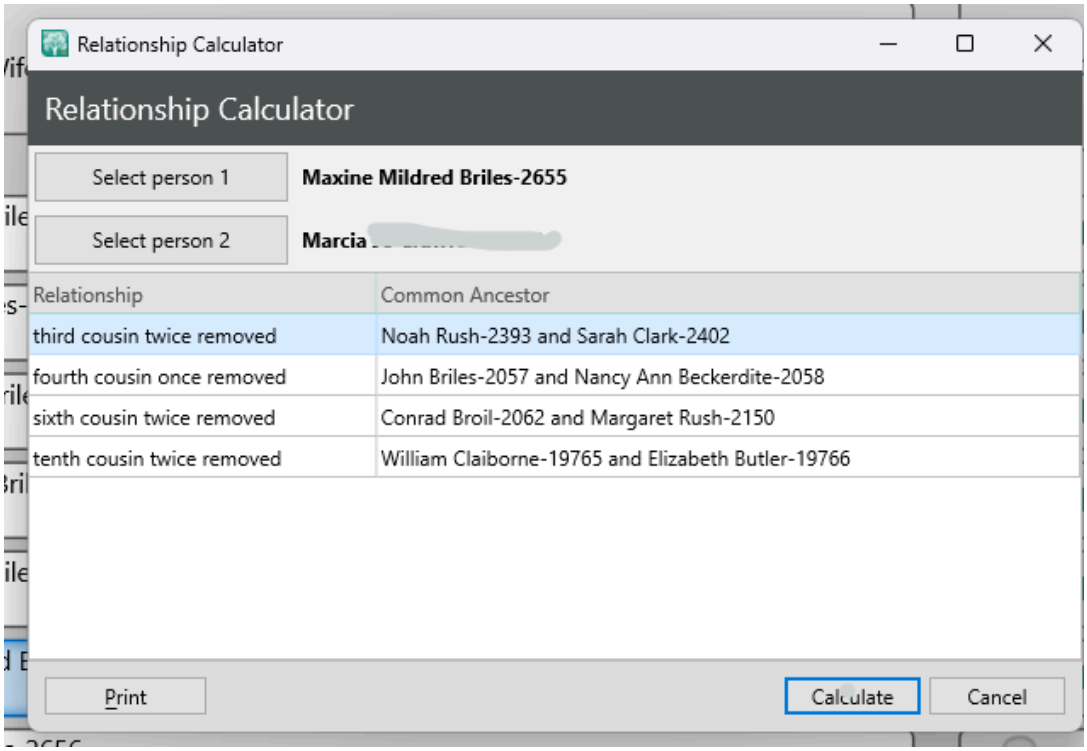
To help answer that question, below is Mildred's pedigree chart with our common ancestors highlighted.



You'll also find a corresponding pedigree screen for my mother, with those same common ancestors marked in purple.



Interestingly, while FamilySearch identifies only one set of shared ancestors, RootsMagic's relationship calculator finds four distinct connections and lists my relationship to Mildred accordingly.



Mildred was a dedicated BRILES family researcher who generously shared her findings with anyone interested. While our common ancestors lived in North Carolina, both of our families migrated to Kansas before it achieved statehood. Mildred's ancestors, Branson Briles and his wife Dorcas Rush, settled near Neodesha, Kansas. My ancestors, Alexander Briles and Sarah Rush, made their home in southern Coffey County.

Mildred and I first met at a BRILES family reunion held on the old Alexander Briles homestead—where history, heritage, and kinship came together.

Below is a transcription of a letter Mildred wrote to me in March 1994.

March 2, 1994

Dear Marcia & Mike,

Hi! How are you both?
Do hope you are well in health; also fine with your work etc.

I am sorry I've been so slow in getting the records you ask for, but I just got one family's records yesterday and some a week or so ago. Hopefully you are still collecting others and ours won't be too late.

Thank you for all the nice material you have sent me. I've really enjoyed it, also the pictures.
I noticed in Max's records that there were a set of twins in your parent's family. Do you have a picture of them? If you do, I'd like to have one made from it. I have collected pictures of seven sets and have put them on my copier and made them to add to other records I give away. I am so proud of them. I counted those mentioned

2

in Max's, and I think there are fifteen or sixteen sets mentioned. The 2nd ones mentioned in Keith's records were Jemis Henry born June 3, 1839 to Zacharias Broyles at Berryville, Wash. Co., Ky. He married Mary Jane Cawood. His twin
John Broyles, b. June 1839 d. 1855 – age 16 yrs old. The 1st Jacob & John of Johanas Broyles. James died in Woodburn Oreg. His wife, Mary Jane, also died then.

Let me know about how you are progressing with the genealogy. I am still waiting on my sister-in-law's family at Loveland, Col. She lost her husband – Mar. 8th, 1993, my youngest brother (Cleallie Claude Briles). Also, my oldest sister's husband died Dec. 11, 1993. (She is Lucille Briles Potter and husband, f Cecil Potter. She lives in Red Oak, Ia., where her two children, Jerry & Marlena Morse and their families live, also My oldest brother, Clyde Briles, died Dec. 11, 1993. His wife Laura lives in Hooker, Ok.

They were at the Briles Reunion when—

3

you were there. 1993 , was not a happy year foruse. There are 3 of use left in our family: letta Mae Bailey, Lucille Potter and myself.

You ask about the book "Popular RIdge." I taled ot louie Edwards a few days ago and she said she ws thinking of having some more made. I shall phone her and encourage her to do that. I think others have ask for one too. Her sister, Verda was the author.

I'll have to close now and get lunch on for Fred.

Did you ever get the names for the picture of the group at that time of the reunion when you were there?
I can help you with most of the names, if you didn't.

Oh, I heard from a Don Briles in Bernie, Mo. Did you? They wanted info. on Alfred Briles. So far I haven't found much about him. They have a set of twins & sent me their picture.

Love,
Mildred F. Barby

Ancestry's Tree Tools

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 5, 2025
Uncategorized
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/05/ancestrys-tree-tools/

Do you have multiple people in your family tree with the same name—perhaps even living in the same location? If so, you've likely struggled to keep them straight or wondered how to easily generate a list of those individuals for closer comparison.

Thanks to Ancestry's Pro Tools and its powerful tree filtering capabilities, that task is now much easier.

I recently used the tree filter to search for everyone in my tree who had any event connected to Augusta County, Virginia. The result? A list of 166 individuals with ties to that location—including several men named James Crawford.

- James Crawford (1719 Scotland – before 1750 Augusta County, Virginia)
- James Crawford (1748 Augusta County, Virginia – abt 1825, Madison County, Alabama)
- James Crawford (about 1750 Augusta county, Virginia – Feb 1812, Orange County, North Carolina)
- James Crawford (1752/3 Augusta county, Virginia – 1803 Fayette County, Kentucky)
- James Crawford (1758 AUguesta County, Virginia – 1836 Jefferson County, Indiana)
- James Crawford (1772, Virginia – 1854 Washington County, Arkansas)
- James Crawford (1787 Augusta County, VIrginia – 1855 Augusta County, Virginia)
- James Crawford (1793 Augusta County, VIrginia – ?)
- James Crawford (1802 Augusta County, Virginia – 1872 Monre County, Missouri)
- Jaems Crawford (? – 1798)
- James Alexander Crawford (1800 Augusta County, VIrginia – 1861 DeWitt County, Texas)

While Ancestry's location filter is a quick and easy way to search a tree, it's not foolproof. When I searched for any event in *Garrard County, Kentucky*, only two individuals with the Crawford surname appeared:

- **Isaac Crawford** (1790, Garrard, Kentucky – ?)
- **William Hamilton Crawford** (1823, Fayette, Kentucky – Feb 1902)

Surprisingly, the filter did *not* return my ancestor **James Crawford**, who was married in Garrard County in 1799. It also missed another **James Crawford**, husband of Rebecca Anderson, who owned land in Garrard County.

When I investigated further, I discovered the issue: the event locations in their records were listed as **"Garrard, Kentucky, United States"**—the format used in my RootsMagic file. Since I uploaded that file to Ancestry, those place names transferred exactly as entered. However, Ancestry's filter recognizes locations in the format **"Garrard County, Kentucky, USA"**. Unfortunately, a filter using one format doesn't pick up events recorded in another.

Ancestry's Pro Tools tree filters can be a powerful way to explore patterns in your family tree—especially when trying to distinguish between people with the same name in the same location. However, as my experience with Garrard County, Kentucky shows, inconsistent place name formatting can limit the effectiveness of these searches. If you're using a synced or uploaded tree, it's worth remembering that Ancestry's protocol might differ from the protocol used in your data.

Misleading Hint

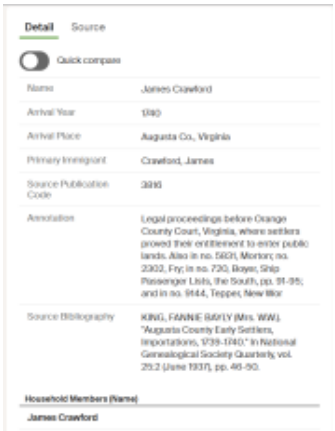
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 6, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/06/misleading-hint/

Tracing an Ancestry Hint: Did James Crawford Really Appear in the 1937 NGS Quarterly?

Have you ever tried to trace an Ancestry.com database hint back to the original source? Did it lead where you hoped—or leave you scratching your head?

While researching a James Crawford from Augusta County, Virginia, I followed an Ancestry hint suggesting a record related to his immigration. The source listed in the database was:

> **U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s**
> Source annotation:
> **KING, FANNIE BAYLY (Mrs. W.W.). "Augusta County Early Settlers, Importations, 1739-1740."**
> *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 25, no. 2 (June 1937), pp. 46–50.


Detail
Source
Quick compare
Name
James Crawford
Arrival Year
1740
Arrival Place
Augusta Co., Virginia
Primary Immigrant
Crawford, James
Source Publication Code
3010
Annotation
Legal proceedings before Orange County Court, Virginia, where settlers proved their entitlement to enter public lands. Also in no. 5601, Morton; no. 2302, Fry; in no. 720, Boyer, Ship Passenger Lists, the South, pp. 91-95; and in no. 9144, Tepper, New Wor
Source Bibliography
KING, FANNIE BAYLY (Mrs. WW). "Augusta County Early Settlers, Importations, 1739-1740." In National Genealogical Society Quarterly, vol. 25:2 (June 1937), pp. 46-50.
Household Members (Name)
James Crawford

The record indicated James Crawford appeared in legal proceedings before the Orange County Court, where early settlers proved their importations to qualify for public land.

Curious, I located the full-text version of the 1937 NGS Quarterly on the National Genealogical Society's website. At first glance, I saw entries for **Patrick Crawford** and **Samuel Crawford**, but no mention of a **James Crawford**.

To verify, I enlisted the help of ChatGPT to pull all **Crawford-related entries** from the article.

📄 Crawford Mentions in "Augusta County Early Settlers, Importations, 1739–1740"

- **July 24, 1740 (Wad. 38, 39)**
  Patrick Crawford proved importation for:
  Ann, James, George, Margaret, and Mary ✳ This James may be a son or relative of Patrick.
- **June 26, 1740**
  William Johnston proved importation for:
  *Ann, Elizabeth, John, and **Samuel Crawford*** ✳ Samuel Crawford is clearly identified, but no James.

Though a James is listed among Patrick Crawford's dependents, there is no **independent listing** of a James Crawford proving importation himself.

👥 What About the FAN Club?

Since I'm also researching **FAN club surnames** (Friends, Associates, Neighbors) in Garrard County, Kentucky, I had ChatGPT check for the following surnames:
Anderson, Kennedy, Douglas, Feathergill, Adams, Maxwell, Gass, and Dooley.

✅ Found in Part One of the Article:

- **Anderson, George** (1740): wife Elizabeth, children William, Margaret, John, Frances
- **Maxwell, John** (1740): for self, Margaret, James, Joseph, Andrew, Robert

✅ Found in Part Two ("Early Settlers and Pre-Revolutionary Soldiers"):

- **Anderson, Alexander Jr.** – A soldier in actual service, writ dated 1761, judgment in 1765

❌ Not Found:

No mentions of Kennedy, Douglas, Feathergill, Adams, Gass, or Dooley in either portion of the article.

📌 Bottom Line

Even though Ancestry's database pointed me to this article for **James Crawford**, the article itself doesn't support that claim. There is no standalone James Crawford listed among the settlers who proved importation. The only mention is as a dependent under Patrick Crawford—insufficient to document an immigration or arrival date for James himself.

This is a great example of why it's important to trace database hints back to the **original source**. What appears promising may turn out to be a false lead—or, in this case, only partially helpful.

Same Land

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 7, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/07/same-land/

Have you ever used land transactions to connect family members in your genealogy research? Have you come across two deeds describing the same parcel of land—but with no clear record of how the second party acquired title?

That's the mystery I've encountered while researching a James Crawford mentioned in *Miami Valley Genealogies*. In 1747, James Crawford purchased land along the Cathey River, with the deed describing the property as follows:

> *Beginning at a Double Elm in a line of Robert Patterson's land on the south side of Cathey's River, and runneth thence south thirty-seven degrees west one hundred and forty-three poles to a stake, corner to Lohr Dowd's land; thence with his line south sixty degrees east three hundred and forty-eight poles, crossing Lewis Crook, to a boared oak under a lully; thence south forty-eight degrees east seventy-two poles to three white oaks; thence north forty-one degrees east one hundred eighty-eight poles to one white oak and one pine; thence north seventy degrees west seventy-eight poles to three pines, corner to George Anderson's land, and one white oak on a steep hill of the river; thence up the several courses of the river to the beginning.*

That exact land description appears again nearly a century later in a deed dated 15 April 1842. In this second deed, Mary Bell of Braxton County sells her share of the land "devised to her in the last will and testament of James Crawford."

However, the James Crawford who purchased the land in 1747 had his estate inventoried in 1750. This suggests the *will* referenced in the 1842 deed belongs to a different James Crawford—possibly a descendant. Unfortunately, no will or intermediary deed has yet been found to connect the original landowner to Mary Bell.

Below is a transcription of the 1842 deed between Mary Bell and Thornton Berry from deed book 63 in Augusta County, Virginia.

> page 180
> THIS INDENTURE : — Made the 15th day of April in the year of our Lord One Thousand
> and Eight Hundred and Forty Two between Mary Bell of Braxton County and State of Virginia
> of the one part and Thornton Berry of the County of Augusta and State aforesaid of Test Wm . A. Burnett
> the other part , WITNESSETH : — That the said Mary Bell of the first part for and
> in consideration of the sum of Twelve Hundred Dollars current money of Virginia to
> her by the said Thornton Berry in hand paid the receipt whereof the said Mary Bell
> doth hereby acknowledge hath granted bargained sold and conveyed and by these presents
> doth grant bargain sell and convey unto the said Thornton Berry his heirs and assigns
> the undivided three sevenths of her entire share and interest consisting of the undi
> vided seven elevenths devised to her in the last will and testament of James Crawford

Dec ‘ d of a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being situate in the County of Augusta containing Four Hundred and One Acres be the same more or less and bounded as follows , viz : Beginning at a double elm in a line of Robert Patterson ‘ s land on the south side of Middle or Cathey ‘ s River and running thence S. 37 degrees W. 143 poles to a stake corner to McDowell ‘ s land thence with his line S. 60 degrees E. 348 poles crossing Lewis Creek to a red oak under a hill thence S. 48 degrees E. 72 poles to 3 white oaks thence N. 41 degrees E. 188 poles to a white oak and pine thence N. 70 degrees W. 78 poles to 3 pines corner to George Anderson ‘ s land and one white oak on a steep hill of the river , thence up the several courses of the river to the beginning , together with all and singular the ap purtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining . To have and to hold the said undivided three sevenths of the said Mary Bell ‘ s whole and entire share and inter est whether at law or in equity consisting of seven elevenths of the said tract or par cel of land above mentioned with the appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining , whether legal or equitable unto him the said Thornton Berry his heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behoof of the said Thornton Berry his heirs and assigns forever and the said Mary Bell for herself her heirs extors and adm’rs doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said Thornton Berry his heirs and assig ns that she the said Mary Bell and her heirs the said undivided three sevenths of her whole and entire share and interest of the said tract or parcel of land lying and be ing situate as aforesaid whether in law or equity with the appurtenances thereto be longing or in any wise appertaining whether in law or equity unto him the said Thorn ton Berry his heirs and assigns against her the said Mary Bell and her heirs and assig ns against all persons whomsoever shall and will by these presents forever warrant and defend . In witness whereof the said Mary Bell hath hereunto set her hand and affix ed her seal the day and year above written .

Mary K. Bell , (Seal) , State of Virginia , Braxton County To wit : – we Fielding Berry and Asa Squires Justices of the Peace in the County aforesaid I

n the State of Virginia do hereby certify that Mary Bell a party to a certain deed , bearing date on the 15th day of April 1842 and hereto annexed personally appeared be fore us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be her act and deed and desired us to certify the said acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County of Augusta County in order that the said deed may be recorded . Given under our hands and seals this 15th day of April 1844 .

Fielding Berry , (Seal) ,

Asa Squires , (Seal) .

Augusta County Court Clerk ‘ s Office , September 2nd 1842 .

This deed of bargain and sale from Mary Bell to Thornton Berry was this day presen ted in the office aforesaid and being acknowledged by the said Mary Bell before two Justices of the Peace for the County of Braxton and certified here , is together with the certificate of said Justices hereon endorsed admitted to record .

Teste : — Jefferson Kinney , Clerk .

These two deeds raise intriguing questions about the chain of title and family relationships surrounding this parcel of land. While both documents clearly describe the same property, the connection between the original 1747 purchaser, James Crawford, and Mary Bell remains elusive. Was there an unrecorded inheritance, a missing deed, or another James Crawford in the family line? Until additional records come to light—such as a will, land division, or chancery case—we’re left piecing together the puzzle with the documents we have. If you’ve encountered similar gaps in land records or have information about this Crawford line, I’d love to hear from you in the comments.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 8, 2025
Kansas,Mentzer,Woodson_County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/08/friday-find-89/

Today's find is another obituary clipping for a Mentzer cousin. This obituary was likely saved by my grandmother, Pauline Mentzer Briles and passed down to me.

Clara Edith Mentzer, the subject of the obituary, was the daughter of George and Emiline (Minnick) Mentzer. Clara Mentzer Williams was one of my grandmother's aunts.

CLARA E. WILLIAMS

Clara Edith Mentzer, daughter of George and Emaline Mentzer, was born on the Mentzer homestead five miles north and west of Yates Center on September 20, 1882, and died December 20, 1970, at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital at the age of 88 years and three months.

Her entire life was spent in Woodson County, with around 75 years of that time living on the same farm where she was born. Her education was obtained in the rural school of her community. For many years she has been a member of the First Methodist Church of Yates Center.

On April 3, 1903, she was married to John Wesley Williams. Their entire married life was spent in the occupation of farming. To this union were born twelve children: Glenn M., who died October 11, 1944; Goldie M. Brodman; Edith E. Harding, both of Yates Center; John Harold of Puyallup, Wash.; Leo L. of Kansas City; Freddie Lloyd, Toole, Utah; Helen D. Smith, Tonganoxie; George Wesley, Yates Center; Clifford W., Renton, Wash.; Letha M. Williams, Kansas City, Mo.; Doris A. Claxton, Alexandria, Va.; Verna L. Faherty, Kansas City.

To Clara E. Williams, the welfare of her home and the dedication of her life to her children were the main concerns of her life. She derived great pleasure in raising her children in a happy Christian home.

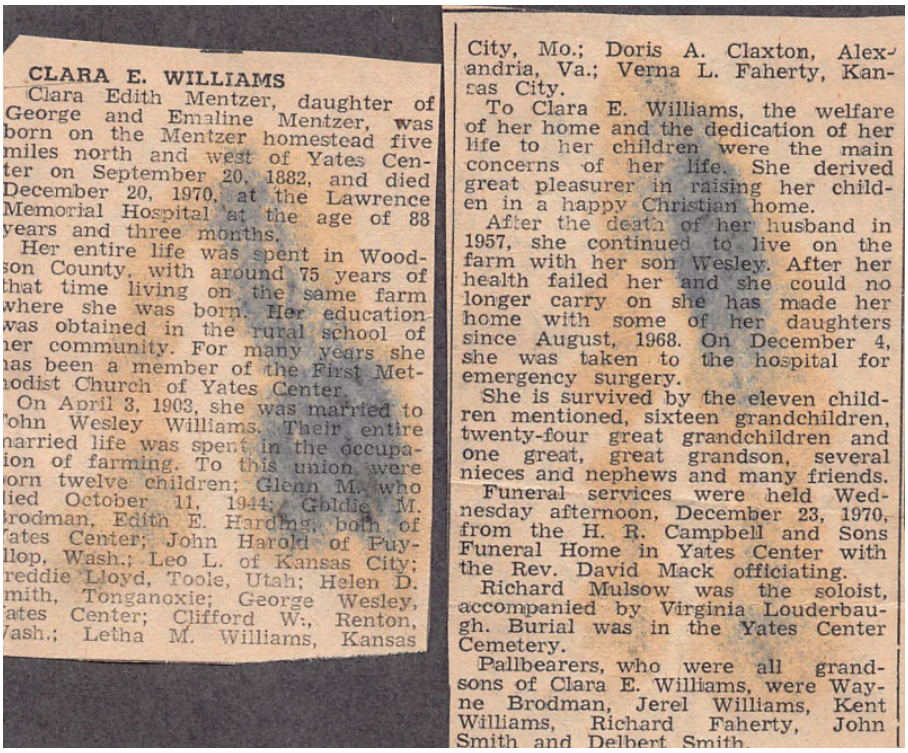
After the death of her husband in 1957, she continued to live on the farm with her son Wesley. After her health failed her and she could no longer carry on, she has made her home with some of her daughters since August, 1968. On December 4, she was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery.

She is survived by the eleven children mentioned, sixteen grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren and one great great grandson, several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, December 23, 1970, from the H. R. Campbell and Sons Funeral Home in Yates Center with the Rev. David Mack officiating.

Richard Muslow was the soloist, accompanied by Virginia Louderbaugh. Burial was in the Yates Center Cemetery.

Pallbearers, who were all grandsons of Clara E. Williams, were Wayne Brodman, Jerel Williams, Kent Williams, Richard Faherty, John Smith and Delbert Smith.



CLARA E. WILLIAMS

Clara Edith Mentzer, daughter of George and Emaline Mentzer, was born on the Mentzer homestead five miles north and west of Yates Center on September 20, 1882, and died December 20, 1970, at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital at the age of 88 years and three months.

Her entire life was spent in Woodson County, with around 75 years of that time living on the same farm where she was born. Her education was obtained in the rural school of her community. For many years she has been a member of the First Methodist Church of Yates Center.

On April 3, 1903, she was married to John Wesley Williams. Their entire married life was spent in the occupation of farming. To this union were born twelve children; Glenn M. who died October 11, 1944; Goldie M. Brodman, Edith E. Harding, both of Yates Center; John Harold of Puyallop, Wash.; Leo L. of Kansas City; Freddie Lloyd, Toole, Utah; Helen D. Smith, Tonganoxie; George Wesley, Yates Center; Clifford W., Renton, Wash.; Letha M. Williams, Kansas City, Mo.; Doris A. Claxton, Alexandria, Va.; Verna L. Faherty, Kansas City.

To Clara E. Williams, the welfare of her home and the dedication of her life to her children were the main concerns of her life. She derived great pleasurer in raising her children in a happy Christian home.

After the death of her husband in 1957, she continued to live on the farm with her son Wesley. After her health failed her and she could no longer carry on she has made her home with some of her daughters since August, 1968. On December 4, she was taken to the hospital for emergency surgery.

She is survived by the eleven children mentioned, sixteen grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren and one great, great grandson, several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon, December 23, 1970, from the H. R. Campbell and Sons Funeral Home in Yates Center with the Rev. David Mack officiating.

Richard Mulsow was the soloist, accompanied by Virginia Louderbaugh. Burial was in the Yates Center Cemetery.

Pallbearers, who were all grandsons of Clara E. Williams, were Wayne Brodman, Jerel Williams, Kent Williams, Richard Faherty, John Smith and Delbert Smith.

ABC Biography: Ethel Frances Briles

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 9, 2025
ABC Biography,Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/09/abc-biography-ethel-frances-briles/

Ethel Frances Briles (1893–1982)

Early Life and Family

Ethel Frances Briles was born on June 2, 1893, in Coffey County, Kansas, to Edward Grant Briles and Frances Artlissa “Artie” Ricketts Briles. She grew up in a close-knit farming family with three siblings: brothers Edward Osmond Briles and Glen Briles, and a sister, Lulu Belle Briles, who later married and became Lulu Belle Cope.

Census records trace Ethel's early years in Neosho and Pleasant Townships in Coffey County. In 1895, the Kansas State Census lists her as a one-year-old in her parents' household, and by 1900 she was seven, living in Pleasant Township. Ethel was still living with her family in 1905 and then in 1910, the family had moved to Liberty Township in neighboring Woodson County.

Marriage and Children

On December 29, 1912, Ethel married Earl M. Smith in Woodson County, Kansas. Earl was born around 1888, and by the 1920 census, the couple was living in Center Township, Woodson County. Earl was 31 years old, and Ethel was 25.

Together, they had two daughters:

- **Juanita Smith**, born November 7, 1913, in Kansas. She later married Cleo Smalling sometime after 1931 and passed away on March 5, 1988, in Kansas.
- **Lulu Frances Smith**, born January 12, 1917. Lulu married several times—first to a man named Morse in November 1937, then to a Lawson in April 1943, to a Franklin in February 1944, and to a Spengler in April 1953. She died on December 1, 1989, in Orange, California.

By 1925, the family had moved to Winfield in Cowley County, Kansas. However, by the 1930s, Ethel and Earl appear to have separated. In the 1930 census, Ethel is listed under her married name "Smith," working as a dressmaker in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Later Marriages and Residences

Around 1935, Ethel married again, this time to **Harry W. Darby**, born May 31, 1880. Harry worked as a conductor, and the 1940 census shows the couple living together at 1113 Washington in Emporia, Kansas.

Harry passed away on May 6, 1944, at the age of 63. His funeral was held on May 9 in Emporia, and he was buried in Hope Cemetery in Hope, Dickinson County, Kansas.

After Harry's death, Ethel remained in Emporia for a time. She worked at Newman's Department Store and lived at 714 Constitution as of September 1944. A 1944 newspaper note mentions she was still working at Newman's in November.

By 1947, Ethel had moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where she was living at the time of her mother's passing. She later relocated to California, where she lived in Los Angeles by 1948 and was recorded as a saleslady in the 1950 census. She continued to reside in Los Angeles into the 1950s and had moved to Long Beach by July 1966.

Final Years and Death

Ethel Frances Briles Darby passed away on August 15, 1982, in Los Angeles County, California, at the age of 89. Her long life spanned nearly nine decades and multiple states, from rural Kansas to urban California.

Historical Context

Ethel's life stretched across significant moments in American history. Born just before the turn of the 20th century, she grew up during a time of agricultural expansion and the early women's rights movement. Her young adulthood was shaped by World War I and the women's suffrage victory in 1920.

The Great Depression and World War II significantly influenced her adult life. As a single mother and later a widow, she demonstrated resilience by working as a dressmaker and saleswoman to support herself. She adapted to changing roles for women in the workforce during and after WWII.

Her moves from small Kansas towns to cities like Kansas City and eventually Los Angeles reflected broader migration patterns in mid-20th-century America, where many sought new opportunities in growing urban areas.

Sources:

- "Kansas, Births and Christenings Index, 1885-1911," database on-line, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online October 2016), Ethel Briles.
- Social Security Administration, "U.S. Social Security Death Index," database, Ancestry, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online October 2016), Ethel Darby, 514142329, before 1951.
- "Kansas, Births and Christenings Index, 1885-1911," database, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.om : viewed online October 2017), Briles.
- Coffey County, Kansas, Register of Marriages and Births Vol. 4, Briles, 2 June 1893; digital images, Family Search http://www.familysearch.org : viewed online July 2018). Original Source: [Originalsource].
- Briles, Max, Compiler, editor, Briles Genealogy (Crandall, Kansas: Max Briles, aft 1952), p. 23
- 1895 Kansas Census, Coffey County, State Census, Neosho Township, Coffey County, Kansas, p 17, Image 8 of 72, E G Briles; microfilm, Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, KS : viewed online January 2019)
- 1900 U.S. Census, Coffey County, Kansas, population schedule, Pleasant Township, Coffey County, Kansas, ED 432, Sheet 7A, Image 13 of 18, household 124, Briles Edward G; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); NARA T623
- 1905 Kansas Census, Coffey County, Kansas, State Census, Pleasant Township, Coffey County, Kansas, page 18, Image 8 of 72, family 130, Briles E G; digital image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : viewed online January 2019)
- 1910 U.S. Census, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, Liberty Township, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 147, Sheet 2B, Image 4 of 16, household 39, Eddie G Briles; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online November 2017); NARA microfilm publication T624
- 1920 U.S. Census, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 160, sheet 2B, household 48, Earl Smith; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online October 2016); NARA microfilm publication T625
- 1925 Kansas Census, Cowley County, Kansas, population schedule, Winfield, Cowley County, Kansas, page 34, Image 212 of 430, line 31, Earl Smith; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 4 August 2025)

- Lineage application of , , Newspaper Clipping “Israel — Daisy Pearl Ricketts” (Briles.KS.070).
- 1930 U.S. Census, Reno County, Kansas, population schedule, Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas, ED 23, sheet 7A (image 13 of 24), Image 13 of 24, household 187, Smith, Ethel F; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online July 2017); NARA T626.
- Polk’s Emporia (Lyon County, Kans.) City Directory 1934 (Kansas City, Mo.: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1934), page 210, Smith, Ethel F Mrs slswn r402 Constitution; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 4 August 2025).
- Polk’s Emporia (Lyon County, Kans.) City Directory 1936 (Kansas City, Mo: R. L. Polk & Co., 1936), p. 91, Darby, Harry W; digital imge, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online October 2016).
- 1940 U.S. Census, Lyon County, Kansas, population schedule, Emporia, Lyon County, Kansas, ED 56-13, Sheet 66, Image 56 of 64, line 76, Harry W Darby; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 4 August 2025)
- Polk’s Emporia (Lyon County, Kans.) City Directory 1940-41 (Kansas city, Mo.: R. L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1940), p 64, Darby, Ethel F; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 4 August 2025).
- “About Town,” The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 1 August 1944, page 6; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).
- “About Town,” The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 12 September 1944, page 5; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).
- “About town,” The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 9 November 1944, page 10; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).
- “Emporian’s Mother Dies,” The Emporia Weekly Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 1 May 1947, page 2; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).
- Los Angeles Exchange Telephone Directory (N.p.: Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1948), image 72, Ethel Briles; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online September 2018).
- 1950 U.S. Census, Los Angeles County, California, population schedule, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, ED 66-1132, sheet 81, Image 29 of 39, line 16, Ethel Darby; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed online 4 August 2025)
- “Ed Briles Dead,” Obituary, The Emporia Weekly Gazette, Emporia, Kansas, 2 August 1951; Newspapers.com (http://www.newspapers.com : online September 2015).
- “Ed Briles Dead,” obituary, The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 24 July 1951, p. 1; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).
- “Edward O. Briles Dead,” undated clipping, from unidentified newspaper; Crawford Family Papers, E. O. Briles Notebook; privately held 2015 by Marcia Philbrick, , Seneca, KS.
- “About Town,” The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 18 July 1966, page 6; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).
- State of California, “California Death Index 1940-1997,” Ancestry.com, (www.ancestry.com : Los Angeles, viewed online (April 2017), Ethel F. Darby; California Department of Health Services.
- Marriage License Record, Woodson County, Kansas, [Page], Woodson County Courthouse, Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.
- 1920 U.S. Census, Woodson County, Kansas, population schedule, Center Township, Woodson County, Kansas, ED 160, sheet 2B, household 48, Earl Smith.
- Newspaper Clipping “Celebrated 50 Years of Married Life” (Briles.KS.069).
- Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed online July 2018), memorial for Hary W Darby (1880-1944), Find a Grave Memorial no. #121659840, created by Misty VIbbert / Detar Bius, citing Hope Cemetery, Hope, Dickinson County, Kansas; accompanying photograph by Misty Vibbert / Detar Bius, Harry W Darby.
- “Celebrates 50 Years of Married Life,” undated clipping, from unidentified newspaper; Crawford Family Papers, passed down to Marcia Philbrick by Pauline Briles; privately held 2018 by Marcia Crawford Philbrick, 803 N. 8th, Seneca, KS 66538.
- “Obituary,” The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 6 May 1944, page 2; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).
- “Obituary,” The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 8 May 1944, page 2; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).

- “Obituary,” The Emporia Gazette (Emporia, Kansas), 10 May 1944, p. 2; Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed online July 2018).

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 10, 2025
Crawford,SaturdayNightGenealogyFun,WikiTree
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/10/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-166/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Learning about how to pursue genealogy and family history is a lifetime task. Once you've mastered one record type (census, church, certificates, probate, directories, immigration, etc), or one skill (family tree software program, record transcription, source citations, DNA matches, AI prompting, etc.), a new record, or skill, presents itself. With the constant advances in technology and knowledge, doing genealogy and family history well requires constant learning to do something new.

2) This week's challenge is to tell us a new genealogy-related skill that you have, or are working on, developing. Tell us about your progress. Are you having fun?

Are you a WikiTree user? While I have a WikiTree account and have shared research on some of my ancestors, I find using WikiTree to share my research to be a challenge.

I can use RootsMagic's TreeShare to easily update my tree on Ancestry. I can attach sources found on FamilySearch to a profile. However, I struggle with some aspects of WikiTree.

My current challenge is what to do with a family structure based on research in wills, deeds and court orders that is different from the family structure on WikiTree. This research began with a Crawford Family genealogy found in the book, Miami Valley Genealogies. Using this source, I used FamilySearch's full text capabilitis to research James Crawford in Augusta county, Virginia.

That research helpmed me put together the descendants of James Crawford and his wife, Elizabeth.

James Crawford (G1R7-CPT) (1719-1750)

+Elizabeth Robertson (G1RQ-D22) (1721-1787)

. . . . . 2-Jane Crawford (LJY8-NM1) (1741-1834)

. . . . . +James Brown (LJ94-ZF7) (1735-)

. . . . . 3-Sally Brown (PSMT-6FF) (-1795)

. . . . . 3-Margaret Brown (PSMT-3ZR) (1771-1853)

. . . . . +Walter Heron or Herring (KH4M-981) (1769-)

. . . . . 3-Thomas Brown (PSZ5-JG1) (1775-1850)

. . . . . 3-Elizabeth Brown (PSMT-SJL) (1776-)

. . . . . +John Bell (M4DM-LTZ) (1773-)

. . . . . 3-James Brown (27HY-Y2D) (1779-1855)

. . . . . 3-William Brown (PSMR-TLP) (1784-1851)

. . . . . 2-George Crawford (L5JC-2SZ) (1742-1751)

. . . . . 2-William Crawford (LRV9-N46) (1745-)

. . . . . 2-James Crawford (LWFH-9FT) (1746-1793)

. . . . . +Jane Sayers (L7QV-XM4) (1748-)

. . . . . 3-Mary Crawford (MT1L-XK7) (-)

. . . . . +William Bell (MYM7-8D9) (-)

. . . . . 4-Rachael Bell (KC51-LBW) (1812-1852)

. . . . . 3-Ann Crawford (K8NY-MBX) (1768-1836)

. . . . . +John Irvine (KZHP-43L) (1766-)

. . . . . 4-Samuel Irvine (K8SR-LVC) (1789-)

. . . . . 4-George Irvine (KCWJ-BP3) (1791-)

. . . . . 4-John Hendrew Irvine (KCXL-NGY) (1793-)

. . . . . 4-James Alexander Irvine (KZRY-K3Q) (1795-)

. . . . . 3-James Crawford (K81J-3V8) (1770-)

. . . . . 3-Elizabeth Crawford (MT1P-SHG) (1770-)

. . . . . 3-Martha Crawford (K2Q1-JNV) (1772-1876)

. . . . . +William Ewen Hogshead (L4WT-CBX) (1781-1854)

. . . . . 4-Martha Hogshead (9XYQ-BVG) (1792-)

. . . . . 4-Walter Hogshead (MBXV-YQ2) (1804-)

. . . . . 4-Elizabeth Jane Hogshead (K6M3-DPY) (1809-1872)

. . . . . 3-Alexander Crawford (KHRS-SND) (1776-1833)

. . . . . 3-Jenet Jane Crawford (M4DM-NY3) (1780-)

. . . . . 3-George Crawford (KHT2-S7N) (1782-1818)

. . . . . 2-Alexander Crawford (L5JZ-DJ3) (1748-1751)

While a descendancy report seems cut and dried, this one required analyzing multiple resources to draw conclusions about the relationships. Thus, I'm not sure how to update the profile for James Crawford on WikiTree. Below are some of my recent posts about this research:

- Crawford Family in Miami Valley Genealogies
- James Crawford of Cathey River
- Same Land

Thus my 'challenge' isn't something I've learned but something I need to learn.

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 11, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/11/mondays-diggings-10/

Today's discovery is another gem from Mildred Briles Barby—a dedicated letter writer and passionate Briles family historian. Mildred's letters not only reflect her warm personality but also her deep commitment to preserving and sharing Briles family history.

> *Excuse all my mistakes!*
> *I am sorry.*
>
> **June 29, 1994**
>
> Dear Marcie & Mike,
>
> We pray this letter finds you both doing well and happy.
>
> As for us, we are having our days of not feeling so well, but we are still able to do most of our work.
>
> The weather has been quite unusual and its effected us quite a bit in the way we feel and also our farming and cattle operation. We have several hundred head of cows and calves and the grass is not doing so well, without the moisture we so badly need.
>
> We are planning on flying out of Amarillo, Texas July 8th to go to Baton Rouge, La. to watch our 12 year old, Shannon Bailey, play basketball in the AAU tournament; also the 16 year old, Erin goes to Colorado Spring, Co. to play…
>
> 2.
>
> …with her group about the 15th or 16th.
> We will return from Baton Rouge and drive to Col.
>
> The Briles Family Reunion will be held July the 24th at the old homestead by LeRoy, Ks.
>
> I got a call from Josephene Briles, John's wife, this morning and she wanted to know if I had a small key board. I was sorry to have to say I didn't. I had had one once and I'd given it to a granddaughter.
> They are wanting to have group singing. Do you and Mike sing? Come and bring your number or numbers.
>
> We have gotten acquainted with a new member of our family.
> They are the Daniel Briles's. Dan's great great great grandfather was Alfred Briles. They are into genealogy and plan to go back east to find more about their side of the house.

Dan & Daphne lie at Bernie, Mo.
Louise Briles Edwards of Ashoborough

3.

N.C. has helped some. She knew Alfred and his family and sent Dan some information, but Daphne (Dan's wife) said the material Louie sent was not printed well (off a copier), so they didn't get too much off it.

The forms you sent me were sent to several different ones and some returned them and others didn't. I'll either send them or I'll bring them to the reunion, if you are there.

I don't know if I have written you about my accident or not, but I turned our pickup over in a culvert and got a concussion, which has bothered me a lot. For a long time, I was unable to think clearly and remember. I was a mess.

Hope to see you and Mike, also your parents at the Briles Reunion — July 24th
Bring your genealogy, if you can.

Love,
Mickey & Fred Barby (cover)

Bring your genealogy if you can

Josephene said some of Dan's relatives there in Kans. are coming also.
It may be Dan's sister or brother.

I ask Daphne if she knew of any of her family that had twins and she said she did. She sent me their pictures. I now have pictures of 7 or 8 sets. I am so proud of them.

She and Dan have a girl & boy, 9 yr. old (twins), and a 16-year old girl.

How a Tax Record Helped Date a Migration

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 12, 2025
Barren County,Crawford,Preble County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/12/how-a-tax-record-helped-date-a-migration/

Untangling Two James Crawfords

Have you ever used tax records to solve a genealogical mystery? I've looked at many over the years, particularly in Kentucky, while researching my Crawford line. But I always come back to the same frustrating question: **which James Crawford is this?**

Two Men, One Name

My ancestor, James Crawford, appears to have migrated alongside another James Crawford. Since there's only a two-year difference in their ages, they aren't father and son. That makes distinguishing their records all the more difficult—and every small clue becomes important.

In Preble County, Ohio, the name James Crawford shows up prominently:

- In 1808, a James Crawford was appointed **Justice of the Peace**.
- In 1814, a James Crawford served as a **county commissioner**.

The question is: were both roles held by the same James Crawford? Or were both men prominent community leaders? If these positions belonged to just one of them, which James was it?

Based on other evidence, I've long suspected that the older James Crawford—married to Martha Knight—was the man serving in these civic roles. That suspicion is partly based on the fact that, after 1829 (when James and Martha migrated to Warren County, Indiana), such civic involvement seems to disappear from local records.

The Coffin Maker

Another clue comes from early county history. Preble County records note:

> *"The first death of which there is any remembrance that took place in the Seven Mile settlement after the arrival of Mr. Dooley was that of an infant child of William and Sarah Sellers… James Crawford made the little coffin of puncheons and it fell to the lot of Silas Dooley to dig the grave."*

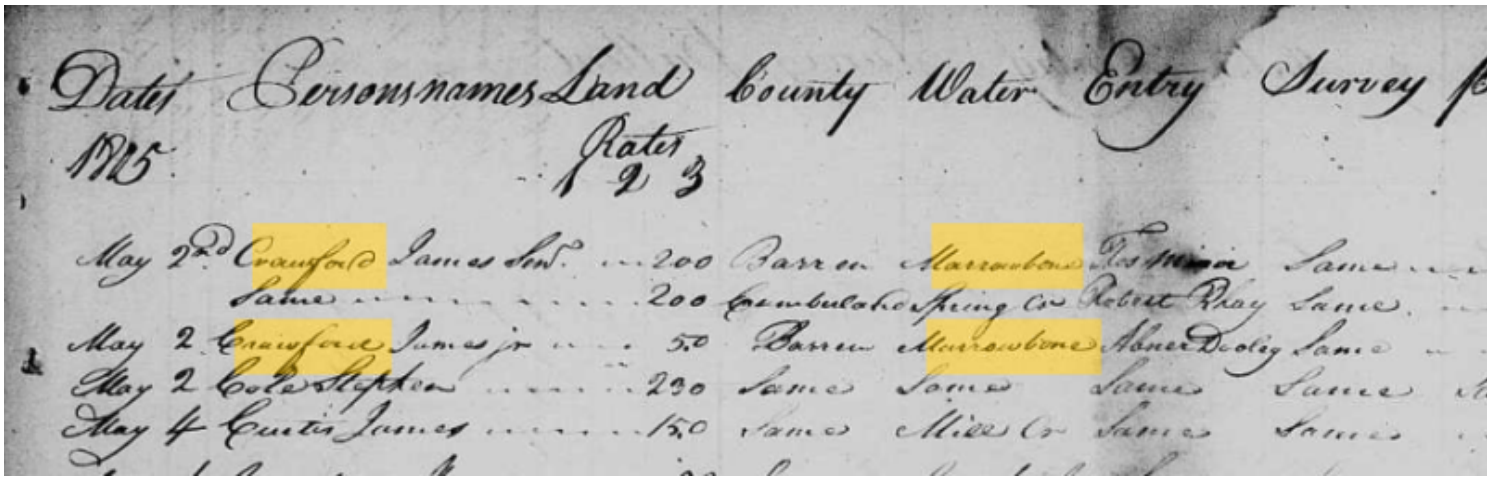
History of Preble County, Ohio: with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches (N.p.: H. Z. Williams & Bro., Publishers, 1881), page 177; digital images, Archive.org, http://www.archive.org.

Find A Grave suggests that this Sellers infant died in **1805**, placing James Crawford in the community that early. I've always attributed this event to the older James, but until recently, the evidence was circumstantial.

Tax Records to the Rescue

Then I turned back to tax records. Both James Crawfords appear in the **1805 Barren County, Kentucky** tax list:

- **James Crawford Sr.** owned **200 acres** on the Marrowbone.
- **James Crawford Jr.** owned **50 acres**, also on the Marrowbone.



In 1822, James Crawford of Preble County sold 200 acres on the Marrowbone in Barren County—land that matches the holdings of **James Sr.** This deed was signed by **Martha**, his wife, confirming the connection. This ties "Big Jimmie," as he was known in early Preble County histories, to the land in Kentucky.

The 50-acre parcel, owned by the younger James Crawford, remains a bit of a mystery. I have yet to locate a deed documenting its sale.

A Key Clue in the 1806 Tax List

While exploring FamilySearch's experimental full-text search, I tried a query using **+CRAWFORD +MARROWBONE**. I didn't find the missing deed—but I did uncover a key tax record I hadn't fully analyzed.

In **1806**, only **James Crawford Jr.** appears in the Barren County tax records, listed with the 50 acres. The 200-acre entry for **James Sr.** is gone. That suggests **James Sr. migrated to Preble County around 1805**, likely with members of the Dooley family, leaving his namesake behind.

By **1814**, both James Crawfords appear in the voter rolls for Preble County's first election. My ancestor completes the purchase of land in the county in **1816**, confirming that both families had settled there by that point.

Conclusion

While the missing deed for the 50-acre parcel still eludes me, the **absence of James Crawford Sr. from the 1806 tax list** provides an important clue. It supports the conclusion that he was the community leader, coffin maker, and Justice of the Peace remembered in early Preble County history. This case highlights how something as seemingly simple as a tax list can help pin down a migration timeline—and differentiate between two men who otherwise appear nearly identical on paper.

James Crawford Will

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 13, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/13/james-crawford-will-3/

When we encounter a will during genealogical research, we typically expect to find references to a spouse, children, and occasionally grandchildren. However, not all wills follow this pattern. The will I'm sharing today is especially valuable because it does *not* name a spouse or descendants—instead, it provides insight into an extended family network by naming several siblings, nephews, and a niece.

This particular will identifies the following individuals:

- James Crawford – [K81J-3V8] – the testator
- Father – James Crawford [LWFH-9FT]
- Nephe James Alexandenr Ervine [MXBP-Z7M]
- Nephew John Hendersin Ervine [MXBP-ZHX]
- Sister – Anne Ervine [K85H-NTH]
- Sister – Elizabeth [MT1P-SHG]
- Sister – Jane [M4DM-NY3]
- Sister – Mary Bell [MYM7-8DX]
- Sister – Anne [K8NY-MBX]
- Niece Eliza Jane Hoinger (possibly K6M3-DPY)

Below is a transcription of the will, which may help clarify family relationships and guide further research into the Crawford, Ervine, Bell, and Hoinger families.

> Will Book 17,1829-1833, Augusta County, Virginia
> DGS 7643872 item 2
>
> "Augusta, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89P7-3NQ6?view=explore : Jul 21, 2025), image 250 of 301; . Image Group Number: 007643872
>
> Augusta County
> Will books, 1745-1871
> Will books, v. 16-17 1827-1831 DSG 7643872
> image 310 – start of volume 17
> Image 555 of 607
>
> Full text search image 249 of 301

In the Name of God Amen I , James Crawford [K81J-3V8] son of James [LWFH-9FT],
being weak in body but of sound mind & disposing memory do make &
publish this my last will & Testament .
In the first place I direct that all my just debts & funeral
expenses be paid as soon as convenient after last will & my decease .
Secondly I bequeath to my Negro man David his freedom together with
five hundred dollars to be made out of the plantation on which
I now live & to be paid to him before he leave this states
Thirdly I direct that all my personal property (except the above
named Negro man David) be sold & the proceeds thereof be applied
to the education of my nephews James Alexander & John
Henderson (son of my sister Anne Ervine [K85H-NTH])
Fourthly I give & bequeath the plantation on which I now reside
to my Mother & my sisters Elizabeth [MT1P-SHG] & Jane [M4DM-NY3] during their life time
and at the decease of the Last surviving one of the these I direct [that]
the same be sold & the proceeds thereof divided unto [?]
parts of which my sister Mary Bell (Possibly MYM7-8DX) shall [?]

image 250 of 301

my sister Anne I [give] to have three parts to be to her heirs & assigns
forever & my niece Eliza Jane [Hoinger] (possibly K6M3-DPY) to have one part to be to her heirs & assigns forever
Fifthly , I direct that all my land in
the County of Botetourt be sold & the proceeds thereof be divided
into four equal parts – one of which part to be to my sister
Mary Bell , to her , her heirs & assigns forever – one other part to my
sister Anne Ervine to her , her heirs & assigns forever – & the remaing
two parts to be to my sisters Elizabeth & Jane during their natural
lives , & at the decease of the last of them to be equally divided between
my above named nephew James Alexander Ervine [MXBP-Z7M] & John Hanson Erwin [MXBP-ZHX]
Sixthly . I bequeath all monies due to me together with all property
to which I may have any claim & which is not above mentioned
to my sister Elizabeth to her , her heirs & assigns forever .
Lastly I constitute & appoint my friends Charles A. Stewart &
John Crawford jr Executors of this my last will & Testament
In testimony whereof & hereby revoking all former wills by me
made & declaring this & this only to be my true one , I have hereby
set my hand & seal the fourth day of January 18[2]8 .
James Crawford
Signed Sealed&& [jus] declared
as the last will & testatment
of James Crawford in our ,
presence who have at
his request & in his presence
hereunto subscribed our names
James Nelson
John Crawford jr
John Crawford
Wm A. Hanger
Augusta County Court February Term 1831
This last will & Testament of James Crawford Crawford decd was presented
in Court and proved by the oaths of James Nelson and John Crawford C
two of the subscribing witness thereto & ordered to be recorded and on
therein named who made oath thereto according to law and together
with John M. Estill and John Crawford so their securities entered with
& [?] bond in the penalty of $20,000 conditional as the law describ what
bond is ordered to be recorded certificate is granted the said Chas A [?]
and John Crawford Jr for obtaining probate thereof is desc from
page 549 for other order of ct.
Teste
Eramis [?]

Image 300 of 301
page 549

Augusta County Court August Term 1833
On Motion it is ordered that the order heretofore made by this Court
Committing the Estate of James Crawford decd to the hands of Clandius [Bu?]
tter then the Sheriff of this County be recorded & on the motion of John J Craig
who made oath thereto according to Law , together with William Poagee his
security entered into & acknowledged their bond in the penalty of $ 18 , 000

Conditioned as the Law directs which bond is ordered to be recorded . Certif
[?t] is granted the said John J. Craig for obtaining letters of Administration
do [Commission] in due form with the will annexed of James Crawford dec
Teste
Jefferson Kinney C. A. C.

Berry – Crawford Family Connections

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 14, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/14/berry-crawford-family-connections/

While reviewing deeds involving Thornton Berry and members of the Crawford family, I've discovered that the current FamilySearch tree does not reflect many of the relationships these documents reveal.

Today's featured document is an 1842 deed in which Thornton Berry purchases land from Elizabeth Crawford. Although I have not yet traced the history of the land itself, the deed references several members of the Crawford family, providing valuable clues for reconstructing family connections:

- **James Crawford** – named in a 1787 deed and a 1791 will
- **Alexander Crawford** – identified as a son in James Crawford's 1791 will
- **Elizabeth Crawford** – sister of Alexander
- **Jane Crawford** – sister of Elizabeth Crawford
- **Thornton Berry's wife** – described as the niece of Elizabeth Crawford

Based on this deed and other records from Augusta County, Virginia, I believe the individuals mentioned align with the following profiles on the FamilySearch Family Tree:

- James Crawford – father [LWFH-9FT]
- Anne Crawford – daughter [K8NY-MBX]
- Elizabeth Crawford – daughter [MT1P-SHG]
- James Crawford – son [K81J-3V8]
- Martha Crawford – daughter [K2Q1-JNV]
- Alexander Crawford – son [KHRS-SND]
- Jenet Jane Crawford – daughter [M4DM-NY3]
- George Crawford – [KHT2-S7N]
- Mary Crawford – daughter [MT1L-XK7]

This deed not only connects some of these individuals but also suggests relationships that are missing or unclear in existing online trees.

Below is a transcription of the 1842 deed between Elizabeth Crawford and Thornton Berry.

> Deed Book 64, 1843-1844
> Augusta County, VIrginia
> DGS 8571090 Item 1

"Augusta, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C379-19VZ-X?view=explore : Jul 23, 2025), image 48 of 306; . Image Group Number: 008571090

Image 48 of 306

This Indenture , made this 27th day of December in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty two Between Elizabeth Crawford [MT1P-SHG] of
the County of Augusta and State of Virginia of the one part and Thornton Berry [29CX-VW8]
of the same County and State of the other part Witnesseth , that the said Eliza
beth Crawford for and in consideration of the natural love and affection [she]
has which she has for the said Thornton Berry who hath intermarried with
her niece as well for the further consideration of one dollars lawful money of
Virginia to her in hand paid by the said Thornton Berry the receipt whereof
is hereby acknowledged she the said Elizabeth Crawford hath given granted
bargained and sold & by these presents doth give grant bargain and sell
unto the said Thornton Berry his heirs and assigns forever , all her undive -ded right title interest & estate whether at law
or in equity in & to a certain
tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County aforesaid between the
South River and Mountain containing by[antient] survey four hundred acre
be the same more or less being the same land conveyed by James Cole
& wife to James Crawford by deed dated 19th of November 1787 and duly re
=corded , bounding the same as follows : Beginning at 3 pines James Kerr's land
& running thence So 75 degrees E 122 poles to two pines and an oak corner to William
Callam S 60 degrees E 230 poles with Callans line to Jonathan Waters line W 75 poles
with Waters line to three pines corner to Waters S 30 degrees W. 112 poles to two black
Oaks by a large pond S 10 degrees S 10 degrees W 74 poles to three pines corner to Jonathan Water .
W 120 poles to two red oaks S [4 deg] 83 Degrees W 180 poles to two pines corner to James
Kerrr thence No 40 E 94 poles to two pines corner to Kerrs land N 130 ° E 160 poles
with James Kears line to the Beginning . and was thereafter devised by said
James Crawford [LWFH-9FT] to Alexander Crawford [KHRS-SND] by Will duly recorded , dated October
5th 1791 and the said Alexander Crawford having departed this life intestate
unmarried and without issue the said tract or parcel of land descended to his
heirs at law of whom the said Elizabeth Crawford his Sister one and
entitled to an undivided fifth part thereof in her own right and her [sister]
Jane Crawford who was entitled to an undivided fifth alrady [?[
her said interest to the sid Elizbeth by will duly recorded dated [?}

image 49 of 306

1840 the interest hereby conveyed being the undivided two fifths of said four
hundred acres of land together with all and singular the appurtenances there unto
belonging or in any wise appertaining . To have and to hold the said undivided
two fifths of said land to him the said Thornton Berry his heirs and assigns
forever . To the only proper use and behoof of him the said Thornton Berry his heirs
and assigns forever . And the said Elizabeth Crawford for herself her heirs executor
and administrators doth covenant with the said Thornton Berry his heirs & assign
that she the said Elizabeth Crawford her heirs executors & administrators the
said undivided two fifths part of said land unto him the said Thornton Berry
his heirs & assigns against the claim or claims of all persons whatsoever , she
the said Elizabeth Crawford her heirs executors & administrators will forever war
rant and defend by these presents . In Testimony whereof the said Elizabeth
Crawford hath hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year above written
Elizabeth Crawford ℗
signed sealed and delivered }
in presence of

State of Virginia , Augusta County to wit :
We Saml Harrisbarger and Edward G. Moorman
Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid do hereby Certify that
Elizabeth Crawford a party to the foregoing conveyance personally appeared be
fore us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the said conveyance to be
her act and deed and desired us to certify her said acknowledgement to the Clerk
of the County Court of Augusta in order that the said conveyance may be re
corded Witness our hands and seals this 30th day of December 1842
Saml Harrisbarger ℗
Edward G. Moorman J. P . ℗ Seal
In the County Court of Augusta June 26th 1843
This deed of Bargain and Sale for real estate between Eliz
abeth Crawford of the one part and Thornton Berry of the other part was
presented in Court and being acknowledged by said Elizabeth Crawford

before two Justices of the Peace for this County is with the Certificates
said Justices thereon endorsed ordered to be recorded
Teste
Jefferson Kinney Clk .

Friday Find

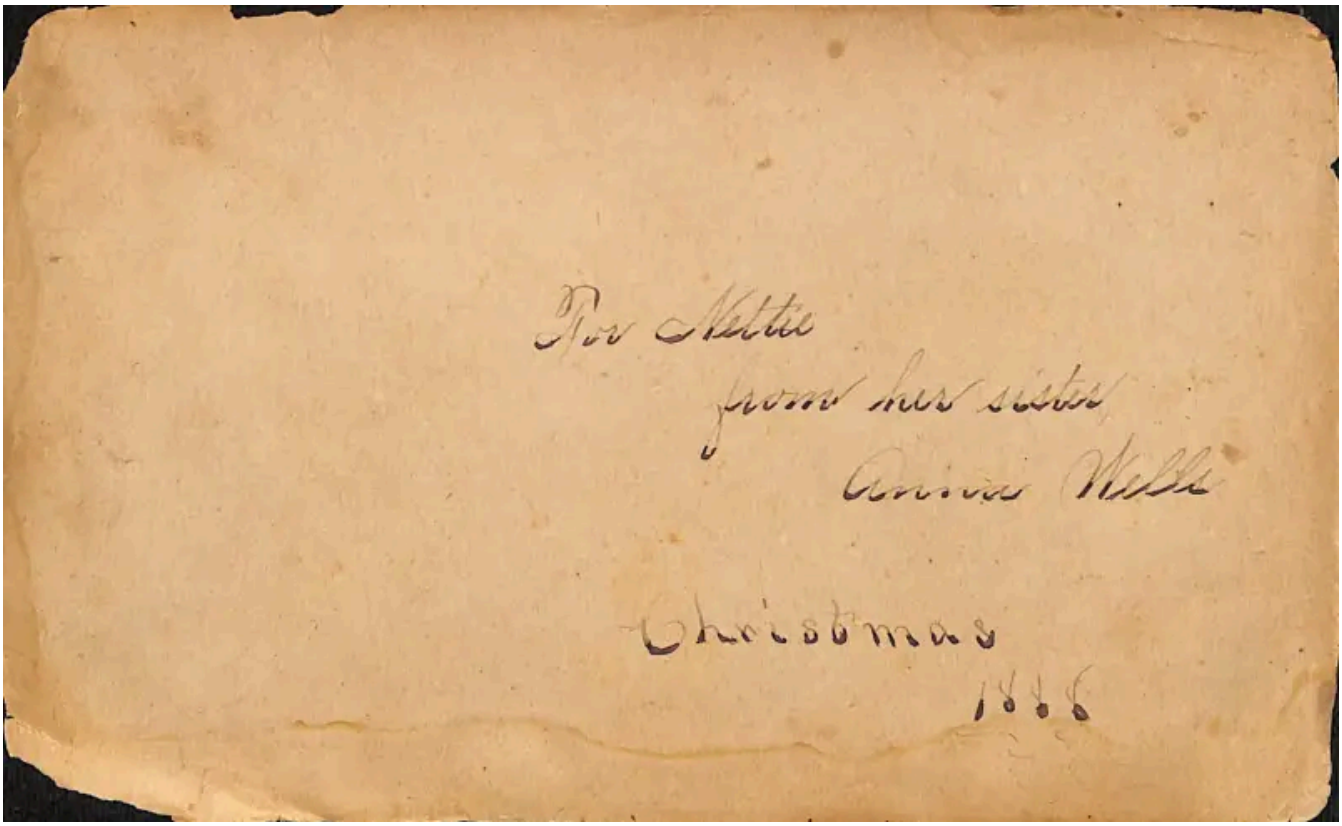
By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 15, 2025
Mentzer,Wells,Woodson_County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/15/mondays-diggings-11/

As I go through my notebooks and files, I frequently come across documents that are now easily accessible online. But every once in a while, I rediscover something truly unique. Today's find is one of those rare gems: my great-grandmother Nettie Wells Mentzer's autograph book.

What follows is a transcription I made when I first received this cherished keepsake — a one-of-a-kind glimpse into the friendships, family ties, and sentiments of her time.

Front Matter:

- **White paper note:** Nettie Wells Mentzer, born 1873, died 1939
- **Fly leaf:** "My mother's autograph book" — signed Pauline
- **Inscription:** "For Nettie from her sister Annie Wells, Christmas 1888"



Pages and Entries:

Page 1:
Yates Center, Kansas, Dec 26, 90
“Dear Cousin Nettie
When you are sitting all alone
Reflecting on the past
Remember that you have a friend
That will for ever last!
— Your Cousin Julia”

Page 2:
Written by Aunt Annie Mentzer — Signed Pauline
“God bless their sweet souls April 4, 1949”

Page 3:
Yates Center, Kansas, Jan. 27, 89
“My dear sister
When your journey of life is ended,
When this earth no more your trod
May your name in gold be written
In the autograph of God.
— Your only sister Anna”

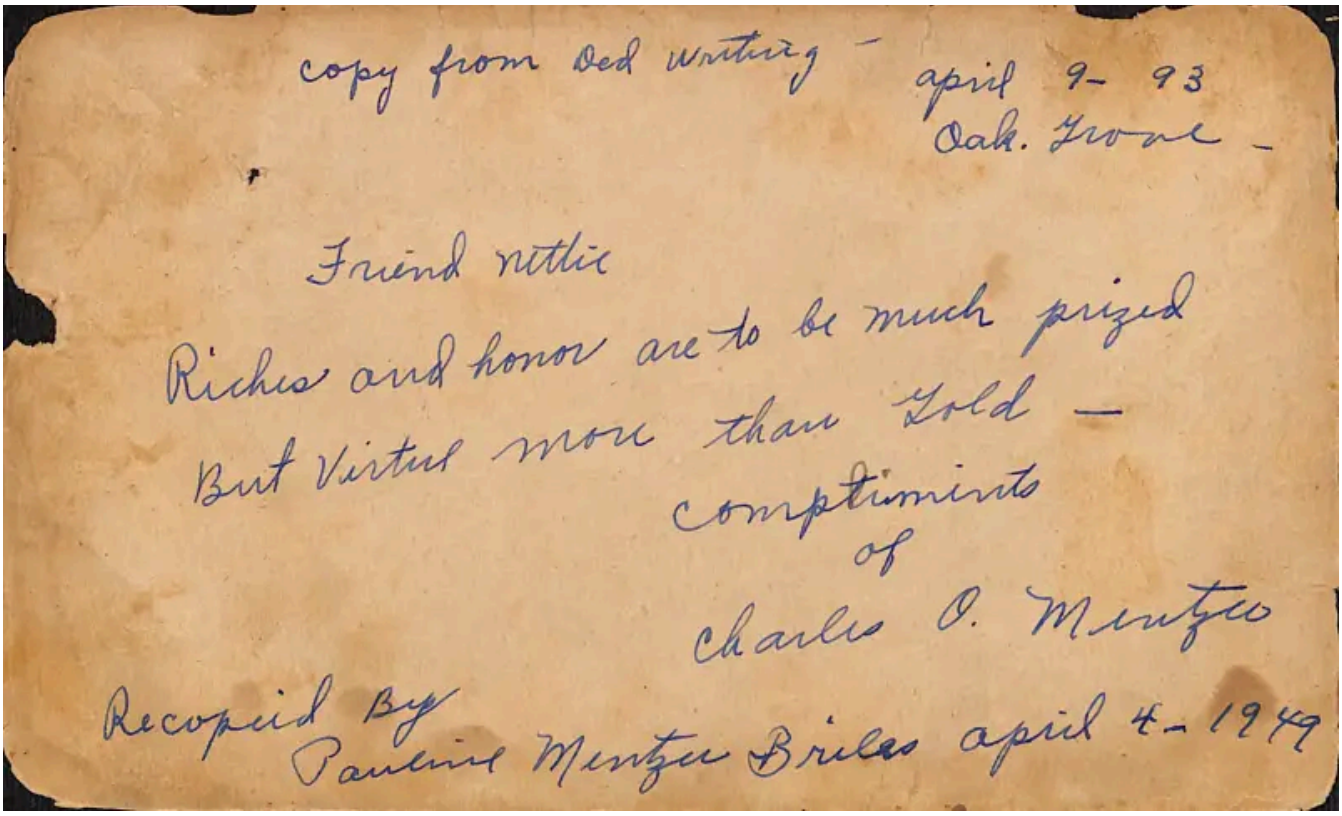
Written by Aunt Annie Mentzer
Pauline
God bless their sweet souls
April 4-1949
Yates Center Kansas.
Jan. 27. '89.
My dear sister:-
When your journey of Life is ended
When this earth no more you trod.
May your name in gold be written
In the Autograph of God.
Your only sister
Anna

Page 4:
“Remember our east side on Sunday
Yates Center Kans. Nov 23 1890
Cousin Nettie
Remember me when far away
When in the tomb my head doth lay
Beneath the cold and silent clay
Just read these times and think of me
That I your friend will always be
— Your Cousin Olie

Page 6:
March 20, 1889
“Friend Nettie
Well begin may be half done
But beginning is not ending
Great successes never are won
By only wishing and intending
— Your Friend, May Brewer”

Page 7:
Copy from Dad’s writing — April 9, 1893, Oak Grove
“Friend Nettie
Riches and honor are to be much prized
But virtue more than gold
— Compliments of Charles O. Mentzer
(Recopied by Pauline Mentzer Briles April 4, 1949)”

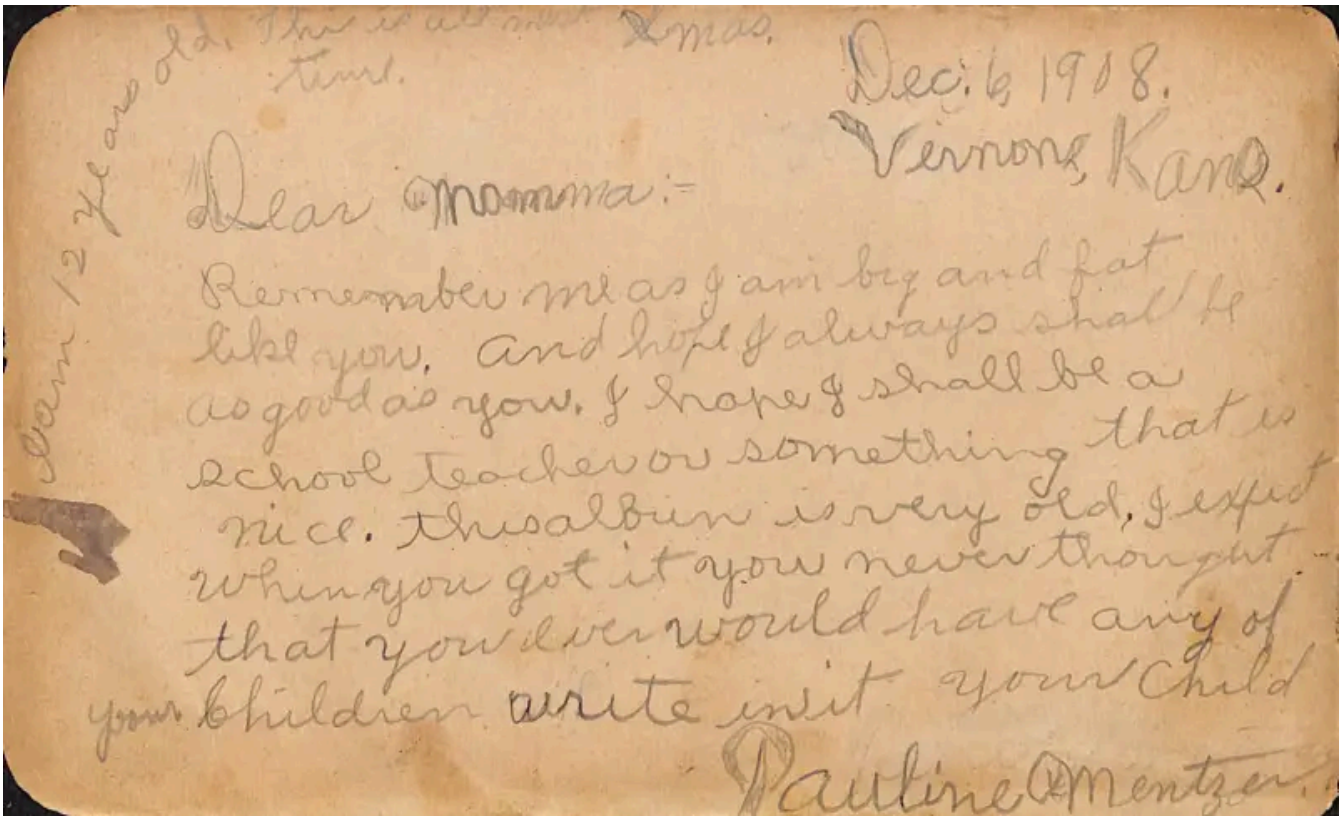
Page 8:
Original version of page 7.


copy from ded writing - april 9- 93
Oak. Grove -
Friend nettie
Riches and honor are to be much prized
But Virtue more than Gold —
compliments
of
Charles O. Mentzer
Recopied By
Pauline Mentzer Briles april 4- 1949

Page 9:
“Dear Mama,
I hope we will meet each other at the gold gate
— Gladys, 3/6/93, Age 8 years”

Page 10:
Gridley, Kans. Aug. 20, 90
“Nettie,
Let not our friendship be like the rose to sever;
But like the evergreen may it last forever.
— Your friend, Bert Maclaskey”

Page 11:
Dec. 5, 1908, Vernon, Kans.
“Dear mamma —
Remember me as I am big and fat like you.
And hope I always shall be as good as you.
I hope I shall be a school teacher or something that is nice.
This album is very old, I expect when you got it you never thought
that you ever would have any of your children write in it.
— Your Child, Pauline Mentzer, age 12 years. This is almost Xmas time.”



Page 12:
“Dear Mamma
I love you mamma
Remember me your baby
— Herbert Mentzer, age 8 years old”

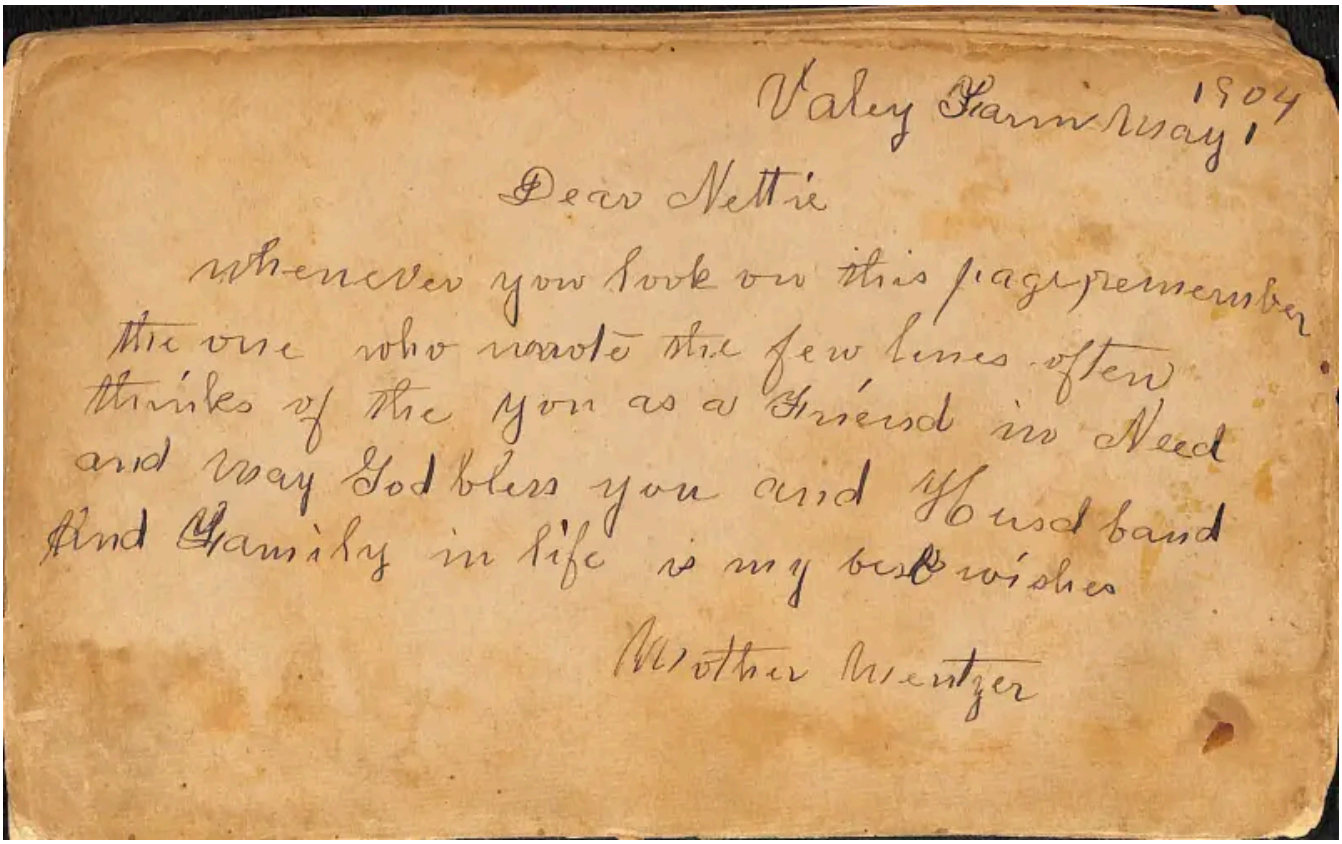
Page 13:
Dec 6, 1908
“Dear Mama
I love your and hope you love me
I love papa the same and Herbert, Glady, Paul, Pauline
I am 9 years old and hope to live to be a good mable man
— From Leslie, to my loving mama”

Page 15:
“From Mike
Dear Nettie,
[Illegible poetic fragment]”

Page 16:
May 19, 1889
“Remember the day we visited Pleasant View School this spring
— Sincerely yours, Lizzie S. Spencer, Yates Center, Kan”

Page 17:
Mar 28, 1889
“Friend Nettie
What we admire, we see in looks
What we value, we read in books
— Yours Truly, James E. Brewer, Yates Center Kansas”

Page 18:
Valey Farm, May 1, 1904 (approx.)
“Dear Nettie,
Whenever you look on the page remember the one who wrote the few lines
Often thinks of you as a friend in need
And may God bless you and husband and family in life
— Is my best wishes, Mother Mentzer”


Valley Farm May 1 1904

Dear Nettie

whenever you look on this page remember the one who wrote the few lines often thinks of the you as a friend in need and may God bless you and Husband and family in life is my best wishes

Mother Mentzer

Page 21:
Gridley Kans., Aug. 20, 1890
“May your life be like a snowflake
Leave a mark but not a stain
Nettie —
A verse you ask this fine day:
Of course I’ll write you one
The task of writing finds its pay
In joy that it is done
— Your friend, Will Maclaskey”

Page 22:
Yates Center Kans., March 8, 1908
“Dear Nettie;
You are not likely to forget me so I’ll just inscribe my name
— Your sister, Susie M. Tunnicliff
May God protect and care for you is my sincerest wish”

Page 24:
“From Bob
Our joys when extended will always increase
Our griefs when divided will hush into peace
— Stella Brown, Y.C.K., March 7, 1889″

Page 26:
“Miss Nettie
This is your twentieth birthday and several of your friends are at your city home to honor the occasion.
On last evening we with Your Majesty were in the country, and had such a time as is worthy of long remembrance.
Well I’m hungry and must quit taxing my brain, as this piece requires
— Everlastingly, Mabel Rose, Maurice Turpin, Ollie Turpin”

Page 27:
“Dear Cousin
Remember your cousin
— Nora Park and her baby”

Page 28:
Yates Center, Jan. 9, 1889
“Dear Nettie
Hope is the tough beef of today

Which may be the mince pie of tomorrow
— Edna Jackson”

Page 29:
March 20, 1892
“Dear Cousin
Years roll on and pass forever
But let our friendship last forever
When your heart is light and free
Read these firm lines and think of me
— Your Cousin J.D. Jr., Joplin, Mo.”
(Scribbled note: signed Goldie Jones)

Page 31:
Feb 5th, 1893
“Miss Nettie
Leaves may wither,
Roses may die,
Friends may forget,
But never will I.
— Olive Turpin”

Page 32:
“Remember Us.
Yates Center, Kan.
Friend Nettie
Laughter produces the sweetest dimples,
Crying and grief the ugliest wrinkles
— Your little friends, Laura E. Brewer, Arthur L. Brewer
March 26th, 1889″

Page 36:
“Yates Center, Kan.
Friend Nettie
May virtue be the guide and happiness be thy lot,
But one request I ask is to forget me not.
— Your Friend, Ollie M. Brewer
March 25th, 1889″

Page 38:
“Dear Nettie
May your life be long and happy,
And your enemies be few,
May your friends be just as plenty
As the sparkling of the dew.
— Lizzie Maclaskey
Gridley, Kan. 8/1, 1890″

Page 41 (possibly mislabeled as 41Z1):
Yates Center, July 5, 1889
“Dear Nettie
Toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing,
Onward through life we go.
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees its close.
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night’s repose.
— Longfellow
Sincerely yours, [Omir] R. Bartlett
Remember the night we went to Cord’s”

Page 42:
Yates Center, Kans.
“Nettie
‘Overline is sufficient for remembrance’
— Yours Respt., H. F. Cook
Dec 9, 1891″

Page 45:
March 8th, 1889
“Friend Nettie

Happiness is not the end of duty!
It is a continuing of, is, it is in it and of it,
Not equivalent but an element
— Effie Jackson”

Page 48:
Yates Center, Kan., May 19, 1889
“Friend Nettie
Well do I remember when thy life began
So sinless and pure and only a span,
But a few years have changed thy proportions
And filled thy heart with love like the oceans.
— Your Ever Friend, W. F. Brewer”

Page 53:
“Paradise”, Feb 5, 1895
“Miss Nettie
This is thy birthday so they say
And may each birthday in after years
Be brighter than the yesterday
— Is the wish of your friend, A. B. Maclaskey”

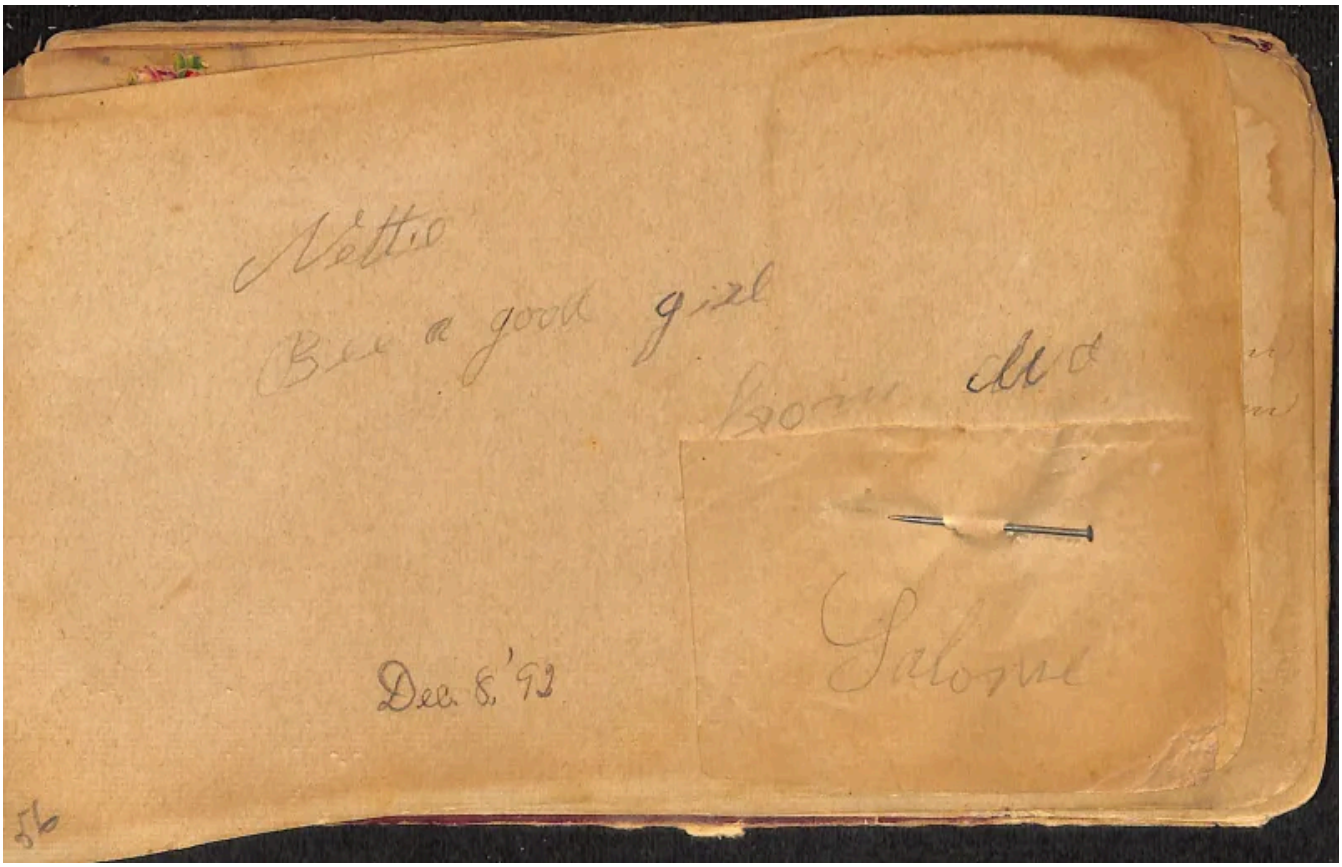
Page 54:
Feb 5, 1893
“Miss Nettie
Do as your mother bids you
Do it with a grace
When Cookie goes to kiss you
Slap him in the face
— Olive [Tuxsen]”

Page 55:
“Then steal away, give little warning,
Say not good night but in a brighter clime
Bid me good morning
— Bridget Donahue, Oregon”

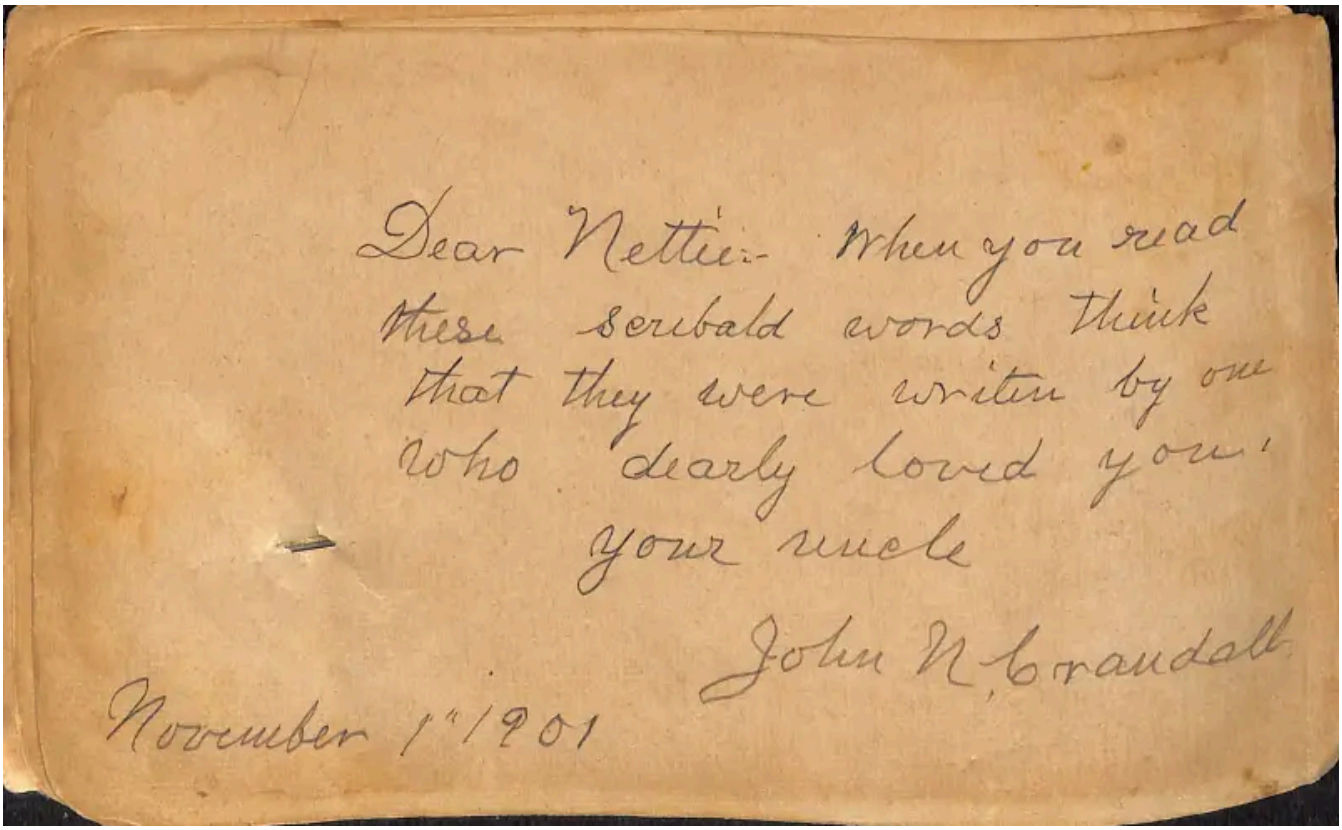
Page 56:
Yates Center, Kans.
“To Nettie
Remember Me
— Dec 9, 1891
H. F. Cooke”

Page 57:
“For the soul that gives is the soul that lives,
And bearing another’s load
Doth lighten your own and shortens the way
And brightens the homeward road
— Nettie”

Page 58:
“Nettie
Be a good girl
— from Salome
Dec. 8, 1892″



Page 59:
"Dear Nettie
When you read these scribbled words think that they were written by one who dearly loved you.
— Your uncle, John N. Crandall
November 1, 1901"



Page 60:
March 25, 1889

“Friend Nettie
May your joys be as deep as the ocean
And your sorrow as light as the foam
— Your friend, Julia C. Brewer
Yates Center, Kan.”

Page 63:
Yates Center, Kansas, Jan 28th, 1889
“Friend Nettie
When the roses of life are faded
And our steps are sad and slow;
May we think with tender longings
Of the days of long ago
— Your Friend, L. W. Jackson”

Page 65:
7-25-1889
[Possibly Saloma, Kans.]
“Friend Nettie
Life, dear friend, is a mingled cup,
An ever-changing song,
And all must feel its weariness
Who bear its burdens long.
There have often been those the poets say
To light and sunshine born,
To pluck the rose along life’s way,
But not to feel its thorns.
I’d ask for such a fate for thee,
But it were all in vain,
Entreating for earth’s children
Freedom from care and pain.
Therefore this is my prayer for thee,
Thus Nettie do I pray,
Oh! may thy hands and heart possess
Strength equal to thy day.
— Mrs. W. L. Wilson”

Page 68:
Yates Center, Kan., Feb 1st, 1889
“Dear Cousin
To thine own self be true,
And it shall follow as the night the day
Thou canst not then be false to any man
— Jennie Jameson”

Page 71:
March 20, 1892
“Dear Friend
Love many, trust few,
Stand always, paddle your own canoe
— Grant [Bangness]
Yates Center”

Page 72:
Yates Center
“Dear Nettie
May your coffee and calendar against you
Be ever the same, without grounds.
— Your loving friend, Myrtle [Heach]”

Page 74:
8-10-89
“Dear Friend
When the name that I write here is dim on the page
And the leaves of your album are yellow with age
Still think of me kindly and do not forget
That wherever I am I remember you yet
— Your schoolmate, Abbie Clark”

Page 76:
“Dear Nettie

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches
— Sincerely yours, Mabel T. Rose
Yates Center
May 13, 1889
Remember our kindergarten ride on Saturday morning out to the country”

Page 80:
Feb 25, 1893
“Dear Nettie
When memory with her jeweled hand
Counts o’er her gems by love’s bright sea
Drop not one pearl upon the strand
But keep it and remember me
— Ever your friend, Madge Prath
Yates Centre, Kan.
Ever remember our cart ride.
Hats — I didn’t mean to spatter.”

A PDF file has been created from the images and uploaded to Nettie Wells‘ profile on FamilySearch.

ABC Biography: Glen Briles

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 16, 2025
Briles,Woodson_County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/16/abc-biography-glen-briles/

Glen Briles (1895–1983)

Rooted in Kansas, Devoted to Family and Community

Early Life

Glen Briles was born on **March 6, 1895**, in **Woodson County, Kansas**, to **Edward Grant Briles** and **Frances Artlissa ("Artie") Ricketts Briles**. He grew up in southeastern Kansas, where his family lived in **Pleasant Township, Coffey County**, as of the 1900 and 1905 state and federal censuses.

By 1910, the Briles family had settled in **Liberty Township, Woodson County**, where Glen was listed at age 15 alongside his parents and siblings: **Edward O.**, **Francis E.**, and **Lulu B.** The family lived a typical rural life, likely involved in farming and small-town affairs.

Adulthood and Marriage

In the early 20th century, Glen continued to live in Liberty Township. In 1915, at age 19, he was still residing with his family in Woodson County. On **June 5, 1917**, he registered for the **World War I draft** in Liberty (Dutro), though there's no indication that he served in the military.

Shortly after the war, on **April 18, 1919**, Glen married **Marcia Ruth Lynn** in **Madison, Greenwood County, Kansas**. Ruth was born **January 26, 1893**, and like Glen, was a lifelong Kansan.

Together they made their home in Woodson County. By 1920, Glen and Ruth were living in **Liberty Township** and had begun their married life. In 1930, they were still in the same area, raising their daughter **Mary Frances Briles**, born **December 25, 1922**, in Vernon, Woodson County.

Career and Civic Involvement

In 1939, the family had relocated to **Yates Center**, the county seat of Woodson County. Glen worked for the **City of Yates Center** in the **water and street department**, a vital job during an era when many small towns were modernizing infrastructure.

He remained civically engaged and was listed in every federal census from 1940 through 1950 as a resident of Yates Center. He also registered for the **World War II "Old Man's Draft"** in 1942, giving his address as **500 South Ridge**.

In **1945**, Glen was recorded attending the funeral of Darrel Smalling in **Emporia**, showing his ties to extended family or community friends. He continued to appear in newspaper records throughout the 1950s, and was a known and steady presence in the local community.

Later Years and Death

Glen's wife, Ruth, passed away on **October 5, 1972**, at age 79. Glen lived on for more than a decade. He passed away on **June 30, 1983**, at the age of 88, in **St. Anthony's Hospital** in **Hays, Kansas**, where his daughter resided.

His **obituary**, published in the *Yates Center News*, noted:

> *"He worked several years for the city of Yates Center in the water and street department. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Frances McNeil of Hays; two grandchildren, Marcia Pfeifer of St. Louis, MO, and Glen McNeil of Hays; two great-grandchildren, Nicole McNeil and Becky Pfeiffer; a sister, Lulu Cope of Yates Center; and other relatives and friends."*

Glen's funeral was held on **Saturday, July 2, 1983**, at **Campbell Funeral Home**, officiated by Reverend Ronald L. Starr. He was buried in **Crandall Cemetery** in **Coffey County, Kansas**, beside his wife.

Family Legacy

Glen and Ruth's only child, **Mary Frances Briles**, married **Edgar Francis McNeil** on **August 14, 1948**, in **Manhattan, Kansas**. Mary Frances passed away in **2011** in Hays, Kansas, leaving behind a legacy of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who continue the Briles family story.

Historical Context

Glen Briles' life stretched across an extraordinary period in American history. He was born before the Wright brothers flew and lived to see a man walk on the moon. His lifetime spanned two world wars, the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl years that impacted Kansas agriculture, and the post-war era of rural electrification and community development.

Living most of his life in southeastern Kansas, Glen's experience reflects the story of many Americans who remained tied to their local roots, contributing steadily to their communities through civil service and strong family values. His consistent presence in local records speaks to a life lived with quiet purpose, grounded in place and tradition.

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 17, 2025
RootsMagic10,SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/17/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-167/

Calling All Genea-Musings Fans —

It's **Saturday Night** again —
Time for Some More Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you choose to accept it (cue the *Mission Impossible* music), is to:

---

1) Explore Your Genealogy Management Program (GMP)

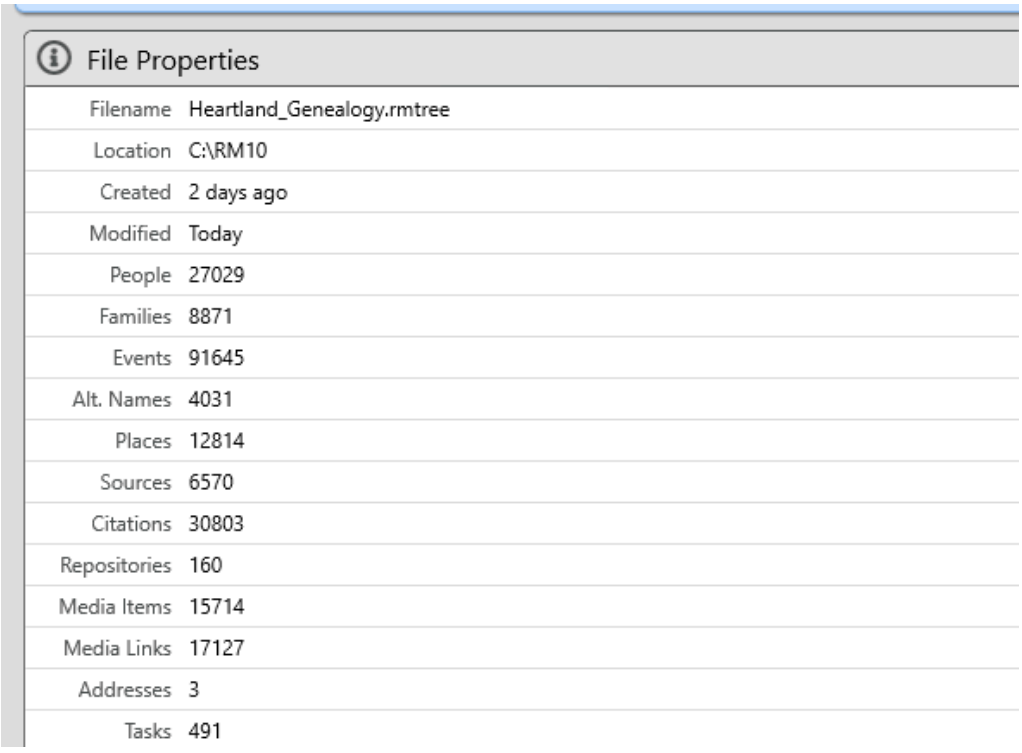
Whether you use a desktop genealogy program or an online family tree platform, find out how to locate statistics about your database. We're talking about the number of **people**, **places**, **sources**, and other details stored in your file. (Hint: the *Help* button is your friend!)

My RootsMagic Numbers

I use **RootsMagic** to store my family tree. But let's be honest—this database holds far more than just *my* ancestors. It includes information on at least five distinct **CRAWFORD** lines, plus a variety of **FAN club** (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors) members.

Here's how I dig into the data:

- **Tools Menu** → *Count Trees*: This reveals how many **separate trees** are in my file. Not only does RootsMagic count them, but it also lets me **print a report**. Mine is **13 pages long**—so yes, I have quite a few people who aren't connected to my main line!
- **Home Tab** → *Properties*: A quick overview of the database.
- **Enhanced Properties**: Now we're talking serious stats!



Snapshot from Enhanced Properties

People

- Total: 27,029
- Male: 14,134

- Female: 12,687
- Unknown: 208

Names

- Total Names: 31,061
- Alternate Names: 4,031

Families

- Total Families: 8,871
- With 1 Parent: 903
- With No Children: 3,472

Fact Types

- Total: 123 (58 user-defined, 31 unused)
- Needing Sentence Templates: 4

Events

- Total: 91,645
- With No Sources: 27,149
- Event Witnesses: 4,814

Associations

- Total: 54

Places

- Total: 16,299
- Not Geocoded: 3,773

Sources

- Total: 6,570
- Citations: 30,803
- Citation Links: 104,475

Media

- Total Media Items: 15,714
- Media Links: 17,127

And that's just the beginning…

Statistics List Report (Generated August 16, 2025)

RootsMagic also lets me print a **Statistics List** via the *Publish* menu. Here's a highlight of what it includes:

Individual Statistics

- Individuals: 27,029
- With Age at Marriage: 5,785
  - Avg. Marriage Age: 24.74 (Male: 26.61, Female: 22.88)
- With Age at Death: 14,081
  - Avg. Death Age: 63.51

Marriage Stats

- Married Individuals: 15,732
- Average Marriages per Person: 1.07
- Average Children per Family: 2.12
- Max Children in a Family: 20

A Note About the “Root” Person

Interestingly, **I’m not the root person** in my file. That’s likely because I didn’t start with RootsMagic. My data was originally entered into **The Master Genealogist**, and before that, **Personal Ancestral File (PAF)**. Since **James Crawford (m. Martha Knight)** appears first, I suspect he was the earliest person I entered into PAF when I began this genealogy journey.

So—how big is *your* tree? What’s hiding in your stats?
Dig in, explore, and **share your number**s!

Monday's Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 18, 2025
Briles
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/18/friday-find-90/

Today's item is another treasured letter from Briles family researcher Mildred Barby, offering personal insights and updates alongside her ongoing dedication to genealogy.

Briles Letter 040
Sept. 28th

Dear Marcia & Mike,
I hope this letter finds you both doing well and you haven't worried too much about the genealogy records. I am sorry I've kept it so long. We've had quite a busy summer and time has slipped by so quickly.

Fred & I got to go to New Orleans to see one of our granddaughters play in the A.A.U. National basketball tournaments there, also our son, Lonnie Bailey, coached his daughter's team – Team Ct. It was really a joy for me. I have always loved the game – played many years in grade & high school, college and on outside women's teams, also coached.

The team came out 5th in the nation. There were 59 teams there from all over the nation and I am so proud of my son & his daughter.

(over)

2

After Lonnie finished at the tournament, he flew to Philmont, a scout camp near Cimarron, N. Mex., and took his troop on a scout trip there, I believe eight days hike. I don't know how he does so much. He has a job with a company that works for the government. It's like he's still in the navy.

After returning from New Orleans, we started cleaning a rental at Hooker, Ok. We got it rented and then came and started on an eight room house that Lonnie & I own over here, by us (about 8 miles east of us on highway 64). We bought it about 5 years ago and it's on a 600 acre ranch.

Lonnie & his family came about the 8th of Sept. and moved in there, however, Lonnie was unable to remain, because they still have their home in Salem Ct. to sell, plus an apartment house. I don't know when he'll be able to come. I hope it will be soon.

3

The kids, Shannon 12 yrs. (girl), Micah 14 (boy), and Erin (girl) 16 are enrolled in Forgan school.

I had a birthday the 24th and I got a card from Dan & Daphney Briles, plus several others. I enjoyed each card.

I am going to send the album by the UPS this afternoon. I think it will be the safest way. I have worried about it getting lost or something. I realize how much time and money, also work that you have put in on it. I hope it was not too much to ask of you to let me copy it. Just in case something happens to yours – remember I have a copy that I can copy for you! Hopefully I'll have mine.

Well, Fred wants me to help him get a baler and tractor over to a field 10 mi. east to cut feed & bale it. I have to take the pickup while he takes the tractor.

I'll close – thanks so much!

Come see us (5 miles west of Knowles + ½ south)

Love, Mickey + Fred Barby

George Crawford's Estate

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 19, 2025
Augusta County,Botetourt County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/19/george-crawfords-estate/

Reconstructing a Crawford Family with Wills and Court Records

Have you ever tried to piece together a family using deeds and court records? As I've been researching the James Crawford family featured in *Miami Valley Genealogies*, I've found that wills and land transactions are crucial for identifying the children of his son, James Crawford.

The will of this second-generation James Crawford names **three sons**:

- **James Crawford**, who inherited the plantation where their father lived
- **Alexander Crawford**, who received land on South River
- **George Crawford**, who was given the plantation on Round Oak

According to the FamilySearch tree, all three sons died without issue. The will of the grandson, James, supports this conclusion—it does not mention any children, but instead identifies **sisters**, a **niece**, and **nephews**.

But what about George and Alexander? Are there other documents that confirm their death dates or clarify whether they had children?

An 1812 will for **George Crawford**, recorded in Augusta County Will Book 2, lists the following siblings:

- Brother **James**
- Brother **Alexander**
- Unmarried sisters **Elizabeth**, **Jane**, and **Ann**

> In the name of God Amen I George Crawford of the County
> Augusta and State of Virginia , being sick and weak in body but of
> sound and disposing mind , memory and understanding do
> therefore make and publish this my last will and testament in
> the manner and form following ; that is to say ; just I ordain
> hat my body be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors
> hereinafter named . and after my just debts and funeral
> charges are paid , I devise and bequeath as follows . I give and be
> queath unto my brother James Crawford one hundred dollars ,
> and my riding horse saddle bridle , Likewise , I give and devise
> unto my brother Alexander Crawford my plantation lying in

Botetourt County and State aforesaid (usually called the cove place)
to him the said Alexander Crawford and his heirs and assigns for
ever Likewise I devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my
personal Estate and slaves to be equally divided among my three
unmarried sisters : to wit : Elizabetts Crawford, Jane Crawford and
Ann Crawford , And : lastly , I do , hereby constitute and appoint my
brother James Crawford and my brother Allexander Crawford
to be sole Executors of this my last will and testament , revo
king all former wills by me heretofore made and ratifying
this and none other to reve be my last will and testament
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and seal this 21st day of March in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and twelve
George Crawford Ⓟ
Signed , sealed , published and all declared by George Crawford
the within named testator , as and for his last will and
testament , in the presence of us , who at his , request in his
presence , and in the presence of each other , have subscribed
names as witnesses thereto .
James Allen
Same [L]essly
James L]essly
in Augusta County Court November the 23rd 1818 This last
will and Testament of George Crawford decd , was presented
in Court and proved by the oaths of James Allen and Samuel
[L]Sessley two of the witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded
and on the motion of James Crawford and Alexander Crawford
the Executors therein named , who qualified as the law directs
and with William Poage and James Bourland their securities
entered into and acknowledged bond as the law directs in the
sum of $ 1000 (which bond is ordered to be recorded) certificate
is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form
Teste
Erasmus Stribling CC

"Augusta, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9TH-56PM?view=explore : Jul 28, 2025), image 219 of 247; . Image Group Number: 007675948

This document strengthens the case that George died without a spouse or children.

Further evidence appears in an 1818 deed: **Jane Crawford**, widow of James Crawford, and **George Crawford**, one of the sons and heirs of James Crawford, sold **392 acres in Botetourt County, Virginia**—the plantation on Round Oak—to **James and Alexander Crawford**. This transaction supports the relationships identified in the earlier will and provides insight into how the land passed among the brothers.

By January 1833, Augusta County court records include orders related to the **estates of both George and Alexander Crawford**, each under **administration *de bonis non***. This Latin phrase means "of goods not administered," referring to the appointment of a new administrator when the original executor failed to settle the full estate. It signals that both men had passed away and their estates required further management. (Augusta, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSLD-B9TW-2?view=explore : Jul 28, 2025), image 208 of 241; . Image Group Number: 008190009)

Finally, in **November 1833**, the Augusta County court recorded an **inventory of the remaining estate of George Crawford**.

Inventory of the Estate of George Crawford decd which came to
the hands of James Bell Sheriff of Augusta County to whom Adminis
tration of said Estate de bonis non with the Will annexed was committed
Bond of George Crawford & Alexander Crawford , dated the ⎫
18th day of October 1817 due 18th Octr 1820 for ⎬ $ 400 . 00
Bond of same persons dated as above & due 18 Octo . 1821 for – . 400 . 00
Bond of some parties of same date due 18th Octo 1822 . for – 400 . 00
Bond of same parties bearing same date due 18th Octo . 1823 – 40000
Bond of same parties bearing same date due 18th Pete 1824 – 400 . 00
Bond of same parties bearing same date due 18th Octo . 1825 – 400 . 00
Bond of same parties being same date due 18th Octo . 1826 – 400 . 00
Bond of same parties bearing same date due 18th Octo . 1827 – 400 . 00
Bond of same parties bearing same date due 18th Octo . 1828 – 40000
Bond of same parties bearing same date due 18th Octor 1829 – 400 . 00
Bond of some parties bearing same date due 18th Octo . 1830 – [80 . 00]
$ 4080 . 00

There is also an the a Bond executed by James & Alexander Crawford
by the above named George Crawford for 400 Dollars being the same
date & due the 18th ct 1819 , which was assigned by the obligor to Joseph
Bell which is believed to be paid and found among the papers of said
James Crawford
The above is a true full & perfect inventory of all & singular the
singular goods chattels of George Crawford , coming to the the posesss
ion or knowledge of the said Bell as Committee administration of
said Estate . Given under my hands this 4th November 1883
William Craig [Dfor]
James Bell S. A . C

Augusta County County November Term 1833
this Inventory of the Estate of George Crawford decd was returned
unto Court & ordered to be recorded
Teste
Jefferson Kenney C A C

Augusta, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-L9PH-973?view=explore : Jul 28, 2025), image 141 of 267; . Image Group Number: 007643873

Together, these records not only confirm the **deaths of James Crawford's sons—James, George, and Alexander—but also support the conclusion that James and George** left **no descendants**.

Descendants of James Crawford of Augusta County, Virginia

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 20, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford,yDNA
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/20/another-james-2/

While researching the Crawford family lines mentioned in *Miami Valley Genealogies*, I recently came across my old photocopy of this publication, which identifies **four Crawford brothers**:

- Alexander Crawford
- Patrick Crawford
- George Crawford
- James Crawford

Hoping to identify male-line descendants for potential **yDNA testing** to confirm this sibling relationship, I began researching the family of **James Crawford**. Using the information from the *Miami Valley Genealogies* entry for *James Crawford & Elizabeth Robertson*, along with wills and deeds located through FamilySearch's experimental full-text search, I was able to reconstruct this family's descendants.

Unfortunately, it appears the male line died out, eliminating the possibility of using yDNA to verify the connection between these Crawford families. Below is my current reconstruction of the family of **James Crawford**, who purchased land in Augusta County, Virginia, in 1740.

First Generation

James Crawford

- **Born:** 31 May 1719, Garnqueen, Cadder, Lanarkshire, Scotland
- **Died:** Before February 1750, Middle River, Augusta County, Virginia
- **Occupation:** Landholder; estate described as "considerable" in court records
- **Married:** 1740, Augusta County, Virginia, to **Elizabeth Robertson** (1721–1787), sister of William Robertson

Key Life Events:

- Purchased land in Augusta County in 1740
- Filed land entry papers, 13 Aug 1747
- Estate ordered inventoried Feb 1750; inventory returned May 1751; estate sold Nov 1751

Children:

1. **Jane Crawford** (1741–1834)
   Married James Brown, Jul 1769; court records confirm she was daughter of James Crawford who died in 1751.
2. **George Crawford** (1742–1751) – died young.
3. **William Crawford** (b. 1745) – no further record.
4. **James Crawford, Jr.** (Aug 1746–3 Jul 1793)
   Married Jane Sayers in 1767; served as Justice in Augusta County; purchased 400 acres in 1787; will dated 1791.
5. **Alexander Crawford** (1748–1751) – died young.

Second Generation

Jane Crawford (1741–1834)
Married James Brown (1735–after 1790). Children included James, William, Elizabeth, Sally, Thomas, and Margaret Brown.

James Crawford, Jr. (1746–1793)
Married Jane Sayers (b. 1748). Children included Mary, Ann, James, Elizabeth, Martha, Alexander, Jenet Jane, and George Crawford.

Third Generation Highlights

- **Ann Crawford** married John Irvine; their children later sold their inherited interest in family land.
- **Mary Crawford** married William Bell; daughter Rachael Bell married Thornton Berry.
- **Martha Crawford** married William Ewen Hogshead; their descendants continued in Augusta County.

Research Outcome

While this research confirmed the structure of James Crawford's family and linked him to significant Augusta County records, **no living male-line descendants** have been identified. This means **yDNA testing cannot be used** to help confirm whether James was indeed a brother to Alexander, Patrick, and George Crawford.

Nonetheless, the wills, deeds, and court records uncovered through FamilySearch have added significant depth to the story of this branch of the Crawford family.

James Crawford (1719–1751) m. **Elizabeth Robertson** (1721–1787)
- **Jane Crawford** (1741–1834) m. James Brown (1735–aft.1790)
  - James Brown (1779–1855)
  - William Brown (1784–1851)
  - Elizabeth Brown (b. ~1776)
  - Sally Brown (d. bef.1795)
  - Thomas Brown (1775–1850)
  - Margaret Brown (1771–1853) m. Walter Heron/Herring
- George Crawford (1742–1751)
- William Crawford (b. 1745) – no further record
- **James Crawford, Jr.** (1746–1793) m. Jane Sayers (b. 1748)
  - Mary Crawford m. William Bell
    - Rachael Bell (1812–1852) m. Thornton Berry
  - Ann Crawford (1768–bef.1836) m. John Irvine
    - John H. Irvine
    - James A. Irvine
    - George Irvine
    - Samuel Irvine
  - James Crawford (b. 1770)
  - Elizabeth Crawford (b. 1770)
  - Martha Crawford (1772–1876) m. William Ewen Hogshead
    - Elizabeth Jane Hogshead (1809–1872) m. William Arthur Hanger
    - Walter Hogshead
    - Martha Hogshead
  - Alexander Crawford (1776–bef.1833)
  - Jenet Jane Crawford (b. 1780)
  - George Crawford (1782–1818)
- Alexander Crawford (1748–1751)

Chasing a Footnote

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 21, 2025
Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/21/chasing-a-footnote/

The 1736 Land Warrant of Ann Craford

Have you ever followed a footnote in a genealogy publication only to discover the cited source might not support the conclusion—or even pertain to the same person?

That's exactly what happened when I took a closer look at a claim published in *Miami Valley Genealogies, Volume 2*. It states:

> The first mention of this family in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is when Ann Crawford, a widow, mother of Patrick, James, George and Alexander, is granted 200 acres of land, Mar. 31, 1736. The son James was granted 200 acres on the same date. This is the James Crawford, merchant, who later settled on Middle River, Augusta County, Virginia

Having recently researched James Crawford of Augusta County, Virginia, I decided to track down the original land records. Fortunately, Ancestry's database, *Pennsylvania, Land Warrants and Applications, 1733–1952*, includes digitized images of these warrants.

What I found raised more questions than answers.

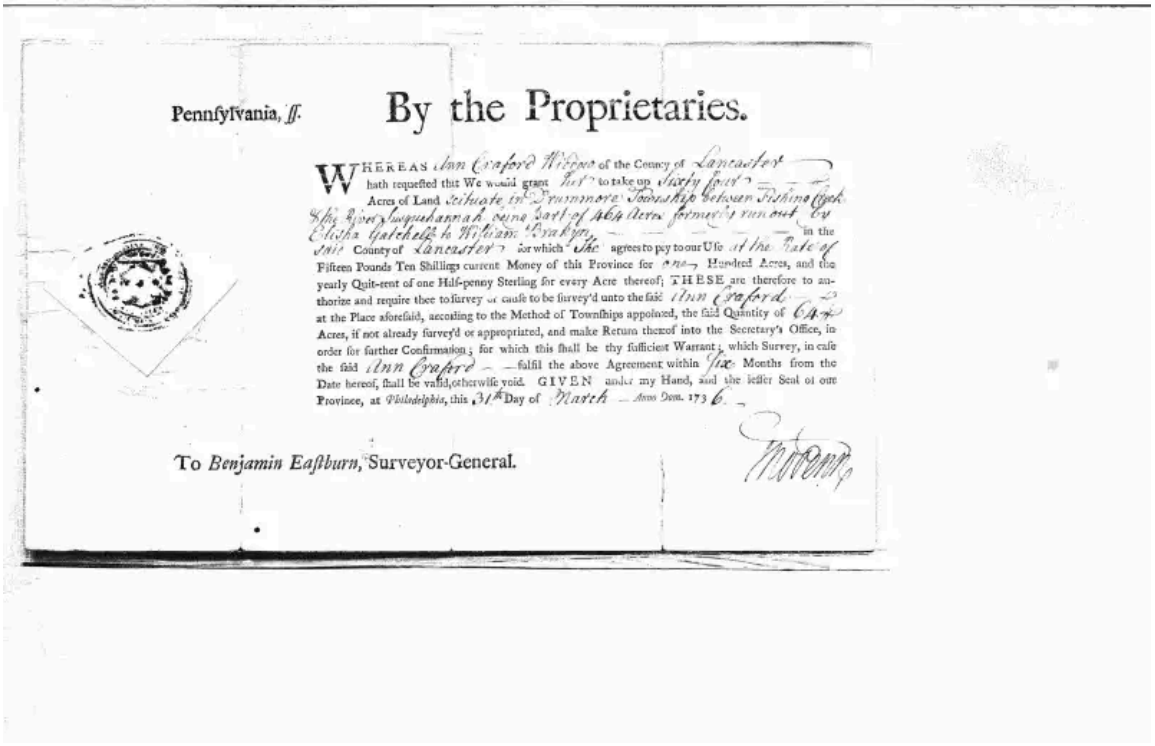
Here's the text of the warrant for **Ann Craford**, dated March 31, 1736:

> Pennsylvania, ss.
> By the Proprietaries.
>
> WHEREAS Ann Craford of the County of Lancaster
> hath requested that We would grant her to take up Sixty four
> Acres of Land situate in Drummore Township between Fishing Creek
> & the River Susquehannah being part of 464 Acres formerly [run out] by
> Elisha Gatchell to William Brackyn
> in the
> said County of Lancaster, for which she agrees to pay to our Use at the Rate of
> Fifteen Pounds Ten Shillings current Money of this Province for one Hundred Acres, and the
> yearly Quit-rent of one Half-penny Sterling for every Acre thereof; THESE are therefore to au-
> thorize and require thee to survey or cause to be surveyed unto the said Ann Craford
> at the Place aforesaid, according to the Method of Townships appointed, the said Quantity of 64
> Acres, if not already survey'd or appropriated, and make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in
> order for further Confirmation; for which this shall be thy sufficient Warrant; which Survey, in case

the said Ann Craford — fulfill the above Agreement within six Months from the Date hereof, shall be valid, otherwise void. GIVEN under my Hand, and the lesser Seal of our Province, at Philadelphia, this 31st Day of March — Anno Dom. 173 6.

To Benjamin Eastburn, Surveyor-General.

(Signature) [Tho Penn]

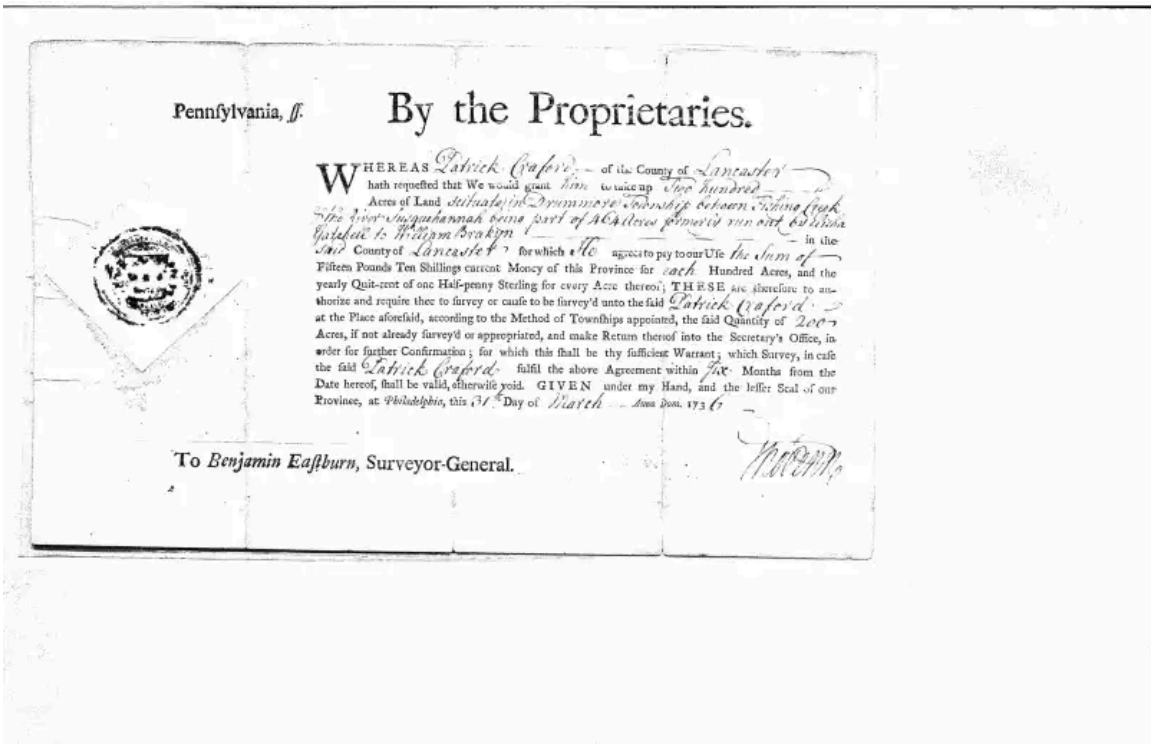


Pennſylvania, ſſ. By the Proprietaries.

WHEREAS Ann Craford Widow of the County of Lancaster hath requeſted that We would grant her to take up Sixty four Acres of Land ſituate in Drummore Township between Fishing Creek & the River Suſquehannah being part of 464 Acres formerly run out & Elisha Gatchell to William Brakin in the said County of Lancaster for which She agrees to pay to our Uſe at the Rate of Fifteen Pounds Ten Shillings current Money of this Province for one Hundred Acres, and the yearly Quit-rent of one Half-penny Sterling for every Acre thereof; THESE are therefore to authorize and require thee to ſurvey or cauſe to be ſurvey'd unto the ſaid Ann Craford at the Place aforeſaid, according to the Method of Townſhips appointed, the ſaid Quantity of 64 Acres, if not already ſurvey'd or appropriated, and make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in order for further Confirmation; for which this ſhall be thy ſufficient Warrant; which Survey, in caſe the ſaid Ann Craford fulfil the above Agreement within Six Months from the Date hereof, ſhall be valid, otherwiſe void. GIVEN under my Hand, and the leſſer Seal of our Province, at Philadelphia, this 31st Day of March Anno Dom. 173 6.

To Benjamin Eaſtburn, Surveyor-General.

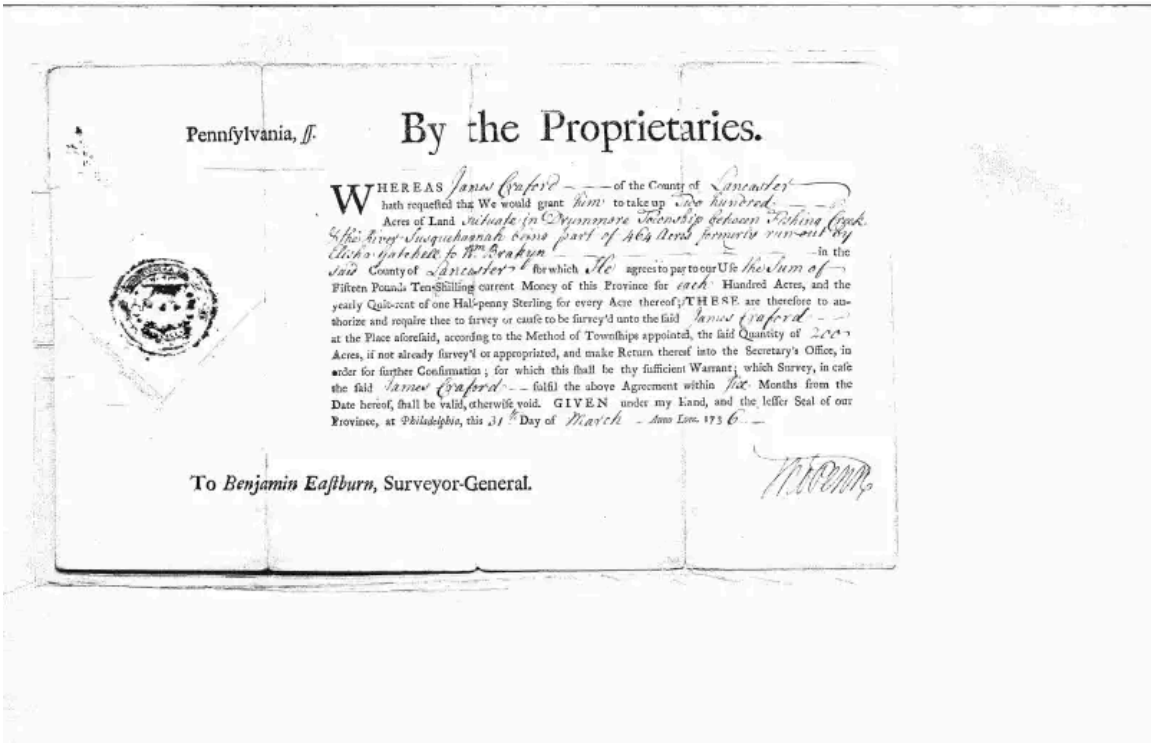
Additional warrants issued on the same day include one for **Patrick Craford** and one for **James Craford**.



Pennſylvania, ſſ. By the Proprietaries.

WHEREAS Patrick Craford of the County of Lancaster hath requeſted that We would grant him to take up Two hundred Acres of Land ſituate in Drummore Township between Fishing Creek & the River Suſquehannah being part of 464 Acres formerly run out by Elisha Gatchell to William Brakin in the said County of Lancaster for which He agrees to pay to our Uſe the Sum of Fifteen Pounds Ten Shillings current Money of this Province for each Hundred Acres, and the yearly Quit-rent of one Half-penny Sterling for every Acre thereof; THESE are therefore to authorize and require thee to ſurvey or cauſe to be ſurvey'd unto the ſaid Patrick Craford at the Place aforeſaid, according to the Method of Townſhips appointed, the ſaid Quantity of 200 Acres, if not already ſurvey'd or appropriated, and make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in order for further Confirmation; for which this ſhall be thy ſufficient Warrant; which Survey, in caſe the ſaid Patrick Craford fulfil the above Agreement within Six Months from the Date hereof, ſhall be valid, otherwiſe void. GIVEN under my Hand, and the leſſer Seal of our Province, at Philadelphia, this 31st Day of March Anno Dom. 173 6.

To Benjamin Eaſtburn, Surveyor-General.



Pennsylvania, ss. By the Proprietaries.

WHEREAS James Craford ——— of the County of Lancaster hath requested that We would grant him to take up two hundred Acres of Land situate in Drumore Township between Fishing Creek & the River Susquehanah, being part of 400 Acres formerly surveyed by Elisha Gatchell to Wm Braskyn ——— in the said County of Lancaster for which He agrees to pay to our Use the Sum of Fifteen Pounds Ten Shilling current Money of this Province for each Hundred Acres, and the yearly Quit-rent of one Half-penny Sterling for every Acre thereof; THESE are therefore to authorize and require thee to survey or cause to be survey'd unto the said James Craford ——— at the Place aforesaid, according to the Method of Townships appointed, the said Quantity of 200 Acres, if not already survey'd or appropriated, and make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in order for further Confirmation; for which this shall be thy sufficient Warrant; which Survey, in case the said James Craford ——— fulfil the above Agreement within Six Months from the Date hereof, shall be valid, otherwise void. GIVEN under my Hand, and the lesser Seal of our Province, at Philadelphia, this 31st Day of March Anno Dom. 1736.

To *Benjamin Eastburn*, Surveyor-General.

At first glance, this seems to confirm the narrative in *Miami Valley Genealogies*. But further investigation casts doubt on the connection.

According to entries on the FamilySearch tree, Ann Crawford—the supposed widow of William Crawford—died in 1726, a full decade before this land warrant. Furthermore, her husband William is said to have lived until 1767, which would mean Ann was not a widow in 1736.

Questions also arise about the James Crawford mentioned. If, as FamilySearch suggests, he was born in 1719, he would have been just 17 years old in 1736—not yet of legal age to hold property under colonial law.

These inconsistencies suggest that the Ann, Patrick, and James Craford of the 1736 Lancaster County land warrants may belong to a different branch of the Crawford family altogether.

The takeaway? This is a reminder of how essential it is to verify sources rather than rely solely on published family histories or online trees. It will take more research—comparing land records, tax lists, and court documents—to determine whether these Pennsylvania Crafords eventually connect to the Augusta County Crawfords, or if they represent a distinct line altogether.

Friday's Finds

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 22, 2025
Iowa,Michigan,New York,Wells
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/22/fridays-finds/

Today's FRIDAY FIND comes from my WELLS family notebook. While I don't have a specific source attached to this document, I believe it may have been shared by a fellow researcher in Michigan. This detailed compilation traces the descendants of Ozias Wells and Mary Kennedy, offering valuable family connections and dates that help bring the WELLS lineage into clearer focus.

DESCENDENT'S of OZIAS WELLS
AND
MARY KENNEDY

OZIAS WELLS:
Born — May 15, 1796 at Northampton, New York
Died: August 5, 1832
Married — March 18, 1818 at Sullivan, New York

MARY KENNEDY:
Born: Feb. 21, 1799 at Halfmoon, New York
Died — March 23, 1885

Issue:

Benjamin F. Wells
Born — March 27, 1819 at Sullivan, New York
Died — Dec. 25, 1891
Married — April 30, 1848 at Clarendon, New York
(by J. Wells Esq.)

Thurston K. Wells
Born — Feb. 26, 1821 at Sullivan, New York
Died — June 3, 1893
Married — March 20, 1861 at Van Buren Co., Iowa

William W. Wells
Born: Jan. 9, 1823 at Sullivan, New York
Died —
Married — Jan. 8, 1842 at Van Buren Co., Iowa

Hannah A. Wells
Born — March 6, 1825 at Sullivan, New York
Died —
Married — Dec. 27, 1848 at Chittenango, New York

Mary J. Wells
Born — Jan. 14, 1827 at Sullivan, New York
Died —
Married — June 15, 1844 at Concord, New York

Lucinda M. Wells
Born — April 21, 1829 at Sullivan, New York
Died —
Married —

Nancy P. Wells
Born — May 8, 1831 at Sullivan, New York
Died —
Married — Jan. 1, 1856

PAGE 2

DESCENDENT'S OF THURSTON K. WELLS
Second son of Ozias and Mary Kennedy Wells

THURSTON K. WELLS:
Born: Feb. 26, 1821
Died: June 3, 1893
Married: date and name of first wife unavailable

Issue: First Marriage

Francis O. Wells
Born: Feb. 23, 1853 at Oneida Co., New York
Died:
Married: Aug. 9,

William Hall Wells
Born: Aug. 24, 1857 at Osawatomie, Kansas
Died: Sept. 9, 1939 at Malta, Montana
Married: Aug. 7, 1881 at Davis Co., Iowa
witnessed by Anna Black McClure & James McClure

Issue: Second Marriage (Salome Crandall)

Freddie L. Wells
Born: Jan. 16, 1862 at Eaton Co., Mich.
Died: Sept. 25, 1869

Mary A. Wells
Born: Jan. 1, 1866 at Eaton Co., Mich.
Died: Sept. 23, 1866

Anna M. Wells
Born: June 12, 1868 at Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Died: May 9, 1938
Married: March 27, 1895

Nettie A. Wells
Born: Feb. 5, 1873 at Woodson Co., Kansas
Died: Feb. 11, 1940
Married: Oct. 18, 1893

Page 3

DESCENDENT'S OF FRANCIS O. WELLS
First Son of Thurston K. Wells

FRANCIS O. WELLS
Born: Feb. 23, 1853 at Oneida Co., New York
Died:
Married: Aug. 9,

Issue:

Pearlie L. Wells
Born: Feb. 17, 1879 at Coffee Co., Kansas

Clinton B. Wells
Born: March 10, 1883 at Woodson Co., Kansas
Married:

Etta M. Wells
Born: May 22, 1885, Woodson Co., Kansas

Archie Wells
Born: Woodson Co., Kansas

Page 4

NETTIE A. WELLS
Fourth Child of Thurston K. and
Salome Crandall Wells

Nettie A. Wells
Born: Feb. 5, 1873 at Woodson Co., Kansas
Died: Feb. 11, 1940
Married: Oct. 18, 1893 at Yates Center, Kansas
to
Charles Mentzer

Issue:

Gladys
Born: No record of date but in Woodson Co., Kansas

Pauline and Paul, twins
Born: No record of date but in Woodson Co., Kansas

Leslie Mentzer
Born: No record of date but in Woodson Co., Kansas

Herbert
Born: No record of date but in Woodson Co., Kansas

page 5

DESCENDENT'S OF ANNA M. WELLS
THIRD CHILD OF THURSTON K. AND SALOME CRANDALL WELLS

ANNA M. WELLS
Born: June 12, 1868 at Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Died: May 9, 1938
Married: March 27, 1895, at Yates Center, Kansas
to
Fred Mentzer
Born: March 3, 1871 at Kenanee, Ill.

Issue:

Hazel Adell
Born: June 19, 1896, at Yates Center, Kansas

Cecile Marie
Born: Nov. 7, 1897 at Yates Center, Kansas

Lelia Pearl
Born: Apr. 27, 1899 at Yates Center, Kansas

Emma Marjorie
Born: Sept. 18, 1901 at Yates Center, Kansas

Wilfred Francis
Born: Jan. 29, 1903 at Yates Center, Kansas

Harley Wells
Born: June 13, 1904 at Yates Center, Kansas

Mildred Mable Mentzer
Born: Oct. 5, 1906 at Yates Center, Kansas

Doris Aleta
Born: June 8, 1909 at Yates Center, Kansas

PAGE 6

DESCENDENT'S OF WILLIAM HALL WELLS
Second Son of Thurston Wells

WILLIAM HALL WELLS
Born: Aug. 24, 1857 at Osawatomie, Kansas
Died: Sept. 9, 1939 at Malta, Montana
Married: Aug. 7, 1881 to

MARY ELIZABETH BLACK
Born: June 11, 1861 in Missouri
Died: March 14, 1936 at Yates Center, Kansas

Issue:

Nc. Clay Wells
Born: Aug. 12, 1883, Van Buren Co., Iowa
Died:
Married:

Frank J. Wells
Born: June 12, 1885, Van Buren Co., Iowa
Died:
Married:

Dolla May Wells
Born: Feb. 3, 1888, at Woodson Co., Kansas
Died: June 25, 1967 at Malta, Montana
Married: Sept. 27, 1908

Mary Elizabeth Wells
Born: Feb. 25, 1890 at Lebanon, Iowa
Died:
Married:

Samuel Clark Wells
Born: Jan. 30, 1892 at Lebanon, Iowa
Died: 1915
Married: Icy Brooks

Jessie Hall Wells
Born: June 3, 1894 at Lebanon, Iowa
Died: June 1967 at
Married:

Note:
Samuel Clark Wells was married to Icy Brooks, born 1891; they had one child, Edgar, born May 29, 1914. They all three died in a boating accident on the reservoir at Grandpa Wells farm.

Page 7

DESCENDENT'S OF CECILE M. MENTZER
Second Daughter of Fred and
Anna M. Wells Mentzer

CECILE MARIE MENTZER BEINE
Born: Nov. 7, 1897 at Yates Center, Ks.
Died: Aug. 28, 1980 at Iola, Ks.
Married: April 8, 1923 at Yates Center, Ks.
to
EMIL F. BEINE

Born: Feb. 24, 1894 at Yates Center, Ks.
Died: Dec. 30, 1981 at Iola, Ks.

ISSUE:

Norma Kathleen
Born: March 25, 1924 at Yates Center, Ks.
Died: March 25, 1924 at Yates Center, Ks.

Norman Eugene
Born: June 13, 1926 at Yates Center, Ks.
Married: Bessie June Willaby

Doris Margaret
Born: Dec. 20, 1929 at Yates Center, Ks.
Married: Lauren Edward Ryan

Maynard Allen
Born: Dec. 30, 1933 at Yates Center, Ks.
Died: Dec. 30, 1933 at Yates Center, Ks.

NORMAN EUGENE BEINE
Born: June 13, 1926 at Yates Center, Ks.
Married: Dec. 6, 1958 at Wichita, Ks.
to
BESSIE JUNE WILLABY
Born: June 17, 1919
Died: Dec. 30, 1982 at Iola, Ks.

DORIS MARGARET BEINE RYAN
Born: Dec. 20, 1929 at Yates Center, Ks.
Married: May 7, 1948 at Yates Center, Ks.
to
LAUREN EDWARD RYAN
Born: Jan. 2, 1922 at Yates Center, Ks.

ABC Biography: Lulu Briles Cope

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 23, 2025
ABC Biography,Briles,Woodson_County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/23/abc-biography-lulu-briles-cope/

Lulu Belle (Briles) Cope

1899 – 1987

Early Life

Lulu Belle Briles was born on November 2, 1899, in Coffey County, Kansas, the daughter of Edward G. Briles and Artie Ricketts Briles.[1][2][3] She spent her earliest years on a farm five miles west of Burlington, Kansas. The 1900 U.S. Census records her in Pleasant Township, Coffey County, as “Lulu B.” in her father’s household, born in November 1899 in Kansas.[4]

By 1905, the Kansas State Census listed her as “Lula Briles,” age 5, still in Pleasant Township.[5] When Lulu was eight years old, her family moved to Woodson County, Kansas, where she would live for the remainder of her life.

Education and Early Career

Lulu attended rural schools in Woodson County and graduated from Yates Center High School with the class of 1918.[6] She taught in one-room schools for four years, a common and important profession for young women of her era, providing education to rural communities.

Marriage to Judge A. Cope

On April 18, 1923, Lulu married Judge A. Cope in Yates Center, Allen County, Kansas.[1267] Their marriage license records Judge Cope as a 35-year-old resident of Yates Center and Lulu as a 23-year-old from Vernon, Kansas. The ceremony was performed in Iola by Probate Judge J.H. Smith.

The couple farmed west of Yates Center throughout their married life. Census records from 1930 show them living in North Township, Woodson County, with Lulu recorded as the wife of “Judge Copy,” age 30.[8]

Family and Community Life

Lulu maintained close ties with her family. In 1940, she and Judge attended her parents’ 50th wedding anniversary celebration in Yates Center, an event attended by all four Briles children and their families.[9] She also visited her sister, Mrs. Ethel Darby, in Emporia in September 1944[10] and attended the funeral of Darrel Smalling in 1945.[11]

Following Judge Cope’s death on January 14, 1971,[112] Lulu continued living on their farm until the fall of 1974, when she moved into Yates Center.

Later Years and Death

Lulu passed away on October 8, 1987, at the Regency Health Care Center in Yates Center at the age of 87 years, 11 months, and 6 days.[13146] She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, one sister, and her husband.

She was survived by several nieces and nephews, along with many other relatives and friends. In her obituary, she included a personal note:

> *“I have enjoyed living on this earth and hope I have spread a little sunshine on the way, which God has created in all its beauty.”*[6]

Her funeral was held on October 10, 1987, at the First Christian Church in Yates Center, with Rev. J. Warren Turner officiating. Burial followed in Yates Center Cemetery.[15]

Spouse: Judge A. Cope

Judge A. Cope was born on March 6, 1888.[112] He worked as a farmer and lived his entire life in Woodson County, Kansas. He died on January 14, 1971, at age 82 and was buried in Yates Center Cemetery, lot 38, section D.[12]

Historical Context

Lulu's life spanned nearly nine decades, a period of immense change in rural Kansas. Born at the end of the 19th century, she experienced the transition from horse-drawn farming to mechanization, the hardships of the Great Depression, and the societal shifts of two World Wars. As a rural schoolteacher in the early 20th century, she played a vital role in educating children in sparsely populated areas. Her long marriage to Judge Cope reflected the stability of farm life in the Midwest, where family, community, and church formed the social fabric. In later years, she witnessed modern conveniences and technologies transform small-town life, yet she remained rooted in Yates Center until her passing.

Footnotes

1. Briles, Max, Compiler, editor, *Briles Genealogy* (Crandall, Kansas: Max Briles, aft 1952), p. 23. ↩ ↩2 ↩3 ↩4
2. Edmund West, comp., "Family Data Collection — Individual Records," database online, Ancestry.com. ↩ ↩2
3. "Family Data Collections – Births," Ancestry.com. ↩
4. 1900 U.S. Census, Coffey County, Kansas, Pleasant Township, ED 432, Sheet 7A, household 124. ↩
5. 1905 Kansas Census, Coffey County, Pleasant Township, page 18, family 130. ↩
6. Obituary clipping, Lulu Belle (Briles) Cope. ↩ ↩2 ↩3 ↩4
7. Kansas, Central Division of Vital Statistics, Marriage License No. 30153 (18 April 1923). ↩
8. 1930 U.S. Census, Woodson County, Kansas, North Township, ED 104-8, Sheet 1A, household 4. ↩
9. Newspaper clipping, "Celebrated 50 Years of Married Life," saved by Pauline Briles. ↩
10. "About Town," *The Emporia Gazette*, 12 September 1944, p. 5. ↩
11. "The Smalling Services," *The Emporia Gazette*, 16 March 1945, p. 1. ↩
12. Find a Grave, memorial for Alvin A. "Judge" Cope (#58184313). ↩ ↩2 ↩3
13. Social Security Administration, "Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007," database online, Ancestry.com. ↩
14. Social Security Administration, "U.S. Social Security Death Index," database, Ancestry.com. ↩
15. Find a Grave, memorial for Lulu Belle Briles Cope (#58184335). ↩

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 24, 2025
SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/24/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-168/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

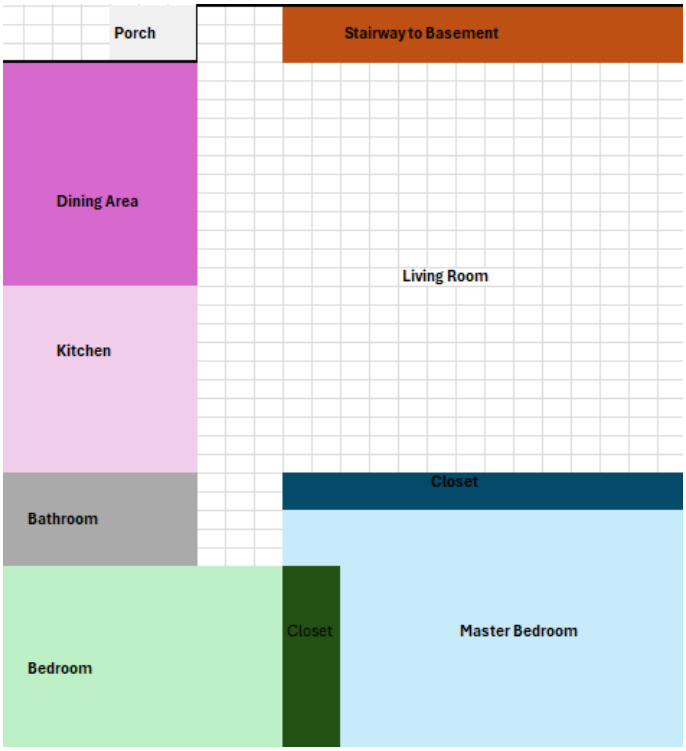
Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) Do you recall the layout of one of your family homes (a parent's home, a grandparent's home, your first home with your spouse/SO, etc.)? Can you estimate the size of the house and the size of the rooms? What features were in each room? Can you draw the floor plan, showing doors, windows, etc.?

According to census records I was 3 years old when we moved to 2210 N. 5th in Dodge City, Kansas. We lived in that house until the start of my 8th grade year when we moved to Lincoln, Nebraska.

According to Zillow, this house is 954 square feet. Below is a rough sketch of the floorplan of the house as I remember it.



The picture below shows my parents and us kids in front of the house about 1959. The window on the left is the dining area and the window on the right is above the sink in the kitchen.

The picture below is of our family and my grandparents in the dining area of the kitchen. The window from the above photo is to the left behind my little brother. The front door is toward the right behind my grandmother.

The picture below is of the west wall of the living room near the doorway into the kitchen. I am sitting on my grandfather's lap.

The picture below is of the north wall of the living room.

A large picture window was on the east wall with a door into the back yard on the south end of the east wall.

The windows in the bedrooms were towards the top of the walls.

The car port and front porch have been enlosed, but the house today still resembles that 1950s home.

Monday Diggings

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 25, 2025
Uncategorized
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/25/monday-diggings/

Today's Monday Diggings item is a copy of a letter from Elmer and Lena, shared with me by fellow Briles family researcher Mildred "Mickey" Briles Barby.

Briles Letter 045

July 9, 1995
1620 S. Kingston St.

Dear Mickey,

I was glad to get the letter and clippings from you. I have always been interested in the Briles family. The things you sent are all very interesting and I am still going over them. Will send you some of the things that I have.

While I was growing up my folks never talked much about their relatives. My grandfather Zebadeer and Uncle Fred both died when I was young. Dad was raised by foster parents, because his mother died when he was about four. My mother's parents and the people who raised Dad all homesteaded within two miles of each other in southeastern Colorado. The one thing that Dad always said about his family was that if they spelled their last name Briles that they were someway related, and he thought that some of the people that spelled it Broyles were also related.

As for me I was the baby of the family and probably an accident. I have two sisters which are 16 and 20 years older than me and a brother 12 years older. There were two who died in infancy and then me.

A little about me. Lived on the farm until I married Lena Thyfault, May of 1952. Then we lived in Pritchett Colorado for about 10 months, at that time I joined the Air Force, rather than being drafted. After my basic training in California, I was sent to Amarillo Texas for tech school. Lena joined me there and after tech school I was assigned to Albuquerque New Mexico, where we stayed for four years.

After my discharge from the Air Force we decided that I should go to aircraft mechanics school in California. We moved to Hawthorne, Ca. and I started school at Northrop, after a few months of trying to survive on the GI school benefits and a child on the way I got a job with United Airlines. I worked for United Airlines 33 years retiring in 1988.

I will send you some of the clippings that I have collected over the years.

Love,
Elmer & Lena

George Crawford Will

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 26, 2025
Augusta County,Crawford
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/26/george-crawford-will/

According to *Miami Valley Genealogies*, Alexander Crawford (who married Mary McPheeters) had a brother named George Crawford. However, when exploring the FamilySearch tree, one finds George Alexander Crawford Sr. connected to **two different sets of parents**, both named William Crawford and Mary Ann Douglas. One set includes Alexander as a sibling; the other does not.

The older couple, William Crawford (1691–1761) and Mary Ann Douglas (1693–1726), were reportedly married in 1714. If George belonged to this family, born in 1726, he would likely have been the youngest child.

The younger couple, William Crawford (b. 1710) and Mary Ann Douglas (b. 1712), are listed with a marriage date of 1734. Since George's birth year is consistently given as 1726, it seems improbable that he belongs to this younger couple.

To help resolve this ambiguity, a will for a **George Crawford** has been located in Augusta County, Virginia. The structure of this family—as outlined in the will—closely matches the descendants listed in *Miami Valley Genealogies*. The will names the following individuals:

- Wife, Elizabeth
- Son, James
- Son, George
- Son, Robert
- Son, William
- Son, John
- Daughter, Margret Anderson
- Daughter, Mary Renkin
- Daughter, Elizabeth Crawford
- Daughter, Sarah Crawford
- Daughter, Jane Crawford

Given the recurring challenges of researching the many Crawford families in Augusta County—where names such as George, William, James, and Mary repeat frequently—it is difficult to say with certainty whether this is the same George Crawford who was the brother of Alexander Crawford. However, the structure of the family named in the will aligns well with the genealogical account from *Miami Valley Genealogies*, particularly the fact that **James is identified as the oldest son**, which is consistent across both records.

> *George Crawford was in Virginia as early as 1747, when he was appointed Overseer of the Road. He died between 1780–84; the name of his wife is not known and the list of his children is not complete; those known –*
> *James Crawford, the oldest son, died in 1798; he married, Dec. 30, 1786, Mary Crawford, a cousin (daughter of Patrick), and had issue –*

- Sarah, married Charles McClung
- James Crawford, never married
- William, never married
- John, married Jan. 1819, Margaret Bell (daughter of Wm.)
- George, died in infancy
- Elizabeth, married Samuel McClung
- Mary, born after her father's death; married John Allen

Supporting this account is a legal reference from *Chalkley's Chronicles*:

> *Chalkley, Vol. 2, p. 259, Crawford vs Crawford, 1821: "William Bell and Margaret Crawford, executors of James Crawford, who died in Augusta County, will dated 1798, leaving six children, four sons and two daughters. A daughter born after his death; son George died as infant; William never married; Sarah married Charles."*

Below is a transcription of George Crawford's will, with probable FamilySearch IDs noted for each individual.

> Will Book 6, 1778-1787
> Augusta County, VIrginia
>
> DGS 7643868 Item 2
>
> "Augusta, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99P7-39VV?view=explore : Aug 1, 2025), image 76 of 284; . Image Group Number: 007643868
>
> image 76 of 284
>
> In the name of God Amen I George
> Crawford [LZJF-47B] of the Middle River of Shanadock in the
> County of Augusta & Colony of Virginia being
> weak in Body but of Sound and perfect mind
> & Memory Blessed be God – do this Nineteenth day
> of July one Thousand Seven hundred and Seven
> ty nine make and public this my first Will &
> Testament in manner following & first & prin
> cipally Recommending my soul unto the hands
> of God that gave it I recommend my Body
> To be Buried by my Executors in a Christian like
> and decent manner Nothing doubting but
> at the General Resurrection I shall Receive
>
> page 141
>
> The same by the power of God , and Tuching Such
> Worldly Estate where with it hath pleased God
> to bless me in this life I give devise & Bequeth
> the same as follows to wit – Imprimis It is my
> Will and desire and I hereby order and Direct
> that all my Just Debts & Funeral Charges be
> first paid and satisfied . Item I give and Be
> queath to my dearly Beloved Wife Elisabeth [LZGF-N5C] the
> uper half of the Plantation I now live on with the
> Dwelling house as long as the continues a widow
> if She Should Marry then I allow the said planta
> tion to fall in to the hands of my Executors
> which hereafter I shall dispose of Likwis I
> allow her the disposal of all the household plenish
> ing with her mare & Saddle and a child part
> of the movable Estate . Item I bequeath to my
> Son James Crawford [2 in family – LQR8-7GN, P9VP-NZS] the lower half of this
> plantation I now live on with one Entry join
> ing to it to him and his Heirs for ever with
> his Gray Mare and Colt and one Tun of hemp
> and a child part of the Movable Estate
> Item I give and Bequeath to my son George Crawford [2 in family P9VG-XVG or LZB5-QWN]
> that plantation of mine which I bought from jos
> hua Hickman only Reserving that part that
> lies above the Spring Run on the North side [S]itt
> lers Creek up to the Line which I will hereafter
> dispose of to him and his Heirs forever and a three
> Year Old Stallion Colt One Tun of hemp and a Child
> part of the Moveable Estate . Item and Bequeath

to my Son Robert Crawford [LHXT-KP8] that Plantation of
mine I bought of Brice Russel with that Addition
taken of hickmins place which lies above the
Spring Run on the North side of Sittlers Creek
up to the line with an entry joining to it to him
and his heirs forever and one Roand Mare for
year old and a child part of the movable Estate
I give and bequeath to my son William Craw
ford [LCZH-MHJ] that plantation of mine that I bought of
William Baskins to him and his Heirs forever
and a Grey horse a Child part of the Movable estte
Item I give and Bequeath to my Son John Crawford [L8PP-H8R]
the uper half of the plantation I live on to himself
his heirs for ever Reserving his mother her right

Image 77
page 142

as above made to her and one two year old Colt
and a Child part of the Movable Estate
I give and Bequeath to my Daughter Margret Ander
son [2 in family – LCM3-CDG, P9VP-Z6T] four hundred pounds out of my Estate
I give and Bequeath to my daughter Mary Renkin [P982-X6R]
five hundred pounds out of my Estate
I give an bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Crawford [2 in family P9VP-NR9 or L6FL-88W] one year
old and filly and a Child part of Movable Estate
I give and bequeath to
a child part of the Moveable Estate I give and beq
ueath to my daughter Sarah Crawford [LCQQ-QYY] a Child
part of the movable Estate I give and bequeath to
my daughter Jane Crawford [L8PP-H8R]a Child part of the
Moveable Estate . I constitute and appoint my
Son James & George Crawford to be my Execu
tors of this my last will and Testament given
under my hand & Seal this Nineteenth day of
July 1779 .
George Crawford ℗
John Givens
John Givens Junr
Thomas Graham
at a Court held for Augusta County May 16th 1782
This last Will and Testament of George Crawford
deceased was produced in Court & proved by the
Oaths of John Givens & John Givens Junr Two
of the Witnesses thereto and ordered to be re
corded and on the motion of James Crawford
and George Crawford the Executors therein Men
tioned (who made Oath according to Law Certify
cate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof
in due form they having with Securitys Enterd into
and acknowledged their Bond according to Law
which bond was also Orderd to be Recorded
Test

Following Randy's Lead

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 27, 2025
Artificial Intelligence,Nemaha County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/27/following-randys-lead/

One of the earliest lessons I learned in my teaching career — one I credit to my dad — was the importance of learning from others in the field. Whether through professional conferences or participation in email discussion lists, there was always something new to discover: fresh ideas, new techniques, or better ways of doing familiar things. Although I first applied that lesson to education, I've found it equally true in my genealogy research.

When it comes to using artificial intelligence, my mentor has been Randy Seaver. My early AI experiments were lighthearted — such as asking a program to write a poem about an ancestor — but it wasn't until Randy introduced his **ABC Biography** method that I began to see the real potential. His willingness to share his experiments and results opened my eyes to how AI tools could be used meaningfully in genealogy projects.

At Randy's prompting, I explored **Google Notebook LM**, first to create short "podcasts" about relatives in my family tree. I even tried it to tell the story of WWII veteran Dorothy Swart Tatum. When I shared that podcast with the Nemaha County Historical Society, our curator asked if it might be possible to create similar podcasts for some of Nemaha County's Purple Heart recipients.

That conversation became the seed of the **Purple Heart Walk**. After some discussion, we decided to create posters honoring the 39 men from Nemaha County who lost their lives in combat during World War II. These posters will be displayed in local businesses, each telling the story of a fallen soldier.

Thanks to Randy's leadership with AI and his ABC Biography process, we are now blending traditional research with modern technology to create an engaging, multi-format tribute:

- **ChatGPT** – to craft a long-form narrative for each soldier's web page
- **ChatGPT** – to write a concise 3–6 sentence summary for each poster
- **Google Notebook LM** – to generate an audio overview of each soldier's story
- **Canva** – to design the posters
- **Canva + audio** – to combine the poster image and audio overview into a video
- **YouTube** – to host the videos and link them to each soldier's web page

Without Randy's curiosity, innovation, and willingness to share his journey, this project might never have taken shape. Thank you, Randy, for inspiring a tribute that blends history, technology, and remembrance.

Below is one of the completed videos.

https://youtube.com/watch?v=Iu-XmtFh3tQ

U.S. Army
Infantry
1920 - 1944
Joseph A. Enneking, Jr. was inducted into the U.S. Army in November 1942 and assigned to the 313th Infantry Regiment of the 79th Infantry Division. After nearly two years of stateside training, he was deployed to France during the summer of 1944 as part of the Lorraine
On October 13, 1944, during intense combat in
Parroy, he was reported missing and later
killed in action. He is buried at the United States
Cemetery in Épinal, France, honored for his bravery and sacrifice. For giving his life in service to his country, Joseph was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

William Crawford Will

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 28, 2025
Crawford,Virginia
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/28/william-crawford-will-2/

In my search for records related to Mary Crawford, who owned land on Sugar Creek in Garrard County, Kentucky, I conducted a full-text search for “Mary Crawford” in Virginia prior to 1800. That search led me to a will recorded in Rockbridge County, Virginia, for William Crawford.

The will names the following heirs:

- Wife: Mary
- Daughter: Eleanor Crawford
- Daughter: Isabell Crawford
- Daughter: Mary Crawford
- Daughter: Elizabeth Crawford
- Younger son: William Crawford
- Younger son: George Crawford
- Younger son: John Crawford

So far, I have not located an exact match for this family in the FamilySearch tree. However, the following family appears to be a partial match:

William Crawford (1733–1835) – [LXQD-7P5]
Mary McRoberts (1735–1784) – [LH7F-YX9] *listed in will*

Children:

- Jean Crawford (1755–?) – [KC1T-RXP]
- James Crawford (1758–1836) – [L4B5-J8X]
- Eleanor Crawford (1770–1863) – [KHCX-HRP] *listed in will*
- Isabella Crawford (1772–1841) – [KDML-V8D] or Isabelle Crawford (1780–1840) – [LXQX-MQ7] *listed in will*
- John Crawford (1778–1858) – [LJNV-LH2] *listed in will*
- George Crawford (1778–1834) – [KZ43-7PQ] *listed in will*

There are a few discrepancies between the will and this FamilySearch profile:

- William’s recorded death date is after the date of the will.
- Sons Jean and James are not named in the will, although its wording suggests the existence of older sons.

- Daughters Mary and Elizabeth appear in the will but are not listed in the FamilySearch record for this family.

Because of these inconsistencies, more research is needed before drawing a firm conclusion that this will belongs to the same William Crawford family.

Below is a transcription of the will.

> Will Book 1, 1778-1796
> Rockbridge County Virginia
>
> DGS 7646171 Item 2
>
> "Rockbridge, Virginia, United States records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9PF-HLJW?view=explore : Aug 9, 2025), image 98 of 274; . Image Group Number: 007646171
>
> Image 98 of 274
>
> Possible Family
> William Crawford 1733-? LXQD-7P5
> Mary McRoberts (1735-1784) LH7F-YX9
>
> Children:
> Jean Crawford 1755-? KC1t-RXP
> James Crawford (1758-1836) L4B5-J8X
> Eleanor Crawford (1770-1863) KHCX-HRP in will
> Isabella Crawford (1772-1841) KDML-V8D or Isabelle Crawford (1780-1840) LXQX-MQ7 in will
> John Crawford (1778-1858) LJNV-LH2 in will
> George Crawford (1778-1834) KZ43-7PQ in will
>
> Also in will but not listed in FamilySearch tree
> Mary Crawford
> Elizabeth Crawford
> William Crawford
>
> page 102
>
> In the name of God Amen , on the tenth day of April one thousand seven
> hundred and eighty three I William Crawford of Rockbridge County and
> State of Virginia ; being very Sick and low in body but of perfect mind and
> memory thanks be to God for his mercies : therefore calling to mind the
> uncertainty of life , do make this my last will and Testament that is to say
> first of all I give and recommend my Soul into the hands of almighty
> God that gave it and my Body to the earth to be deasently buried at the
> discretion of my Executors and secondly as touching my worldly
> Estate wherewith it has pleased god to bless me in this life I give Demise
> and dispose of in the following manner and form . First of all I give
> and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary Crawford the one third of all my
> personal Estate and her Lawfull share of all my Lands and and next
> I give to my four daughters to wit Elinor Crawford Isabell Crawford
> Mary Crawford & Elizabeth Crawford the remaining two thirds of all
> my personall Estate to be equally divided , and next I do give and
> Bequeath to my three youngest sons to wit William Crawford George
> Crawford & John Crawford all my Lands to be equally divided
> and lastly I do hereby constitue and appoint my beloved wife Mary
> Crawford and John Greenlee my Lawfull Executors of this my last
> will and Testament and do revoke all former wills and Testaments
> made or apointed to be made by me , in witness whereof I have here
> unto set my hand and seal the day and year above written .
> William his mark Crawford (seal)
>
> Signed Sealed pronounced and declared to be the last will
> and Testament of William Crawford in the presents of }
> John Gilmore
> Geo Warren Parker
> William Byers
> [Z]epert Fiell
>
> At a Court held for Rockbridge County June 3d 1783
> This last Will and Testament of William Crawford Decd was presented in Court by
> Mary Crawford widow & Executrix & John Greenlee Executor and proved by
> the oaths of John Gilmore William Byers and Peter[Teel] Witnesses thereto

and ordered to be recorded -and on the motion of said Executrix & Executor who made oath according to Law Certificate is granted them for obtaining Probate thereof in due form Giving Security whereupon they together with John Gilmore theirSecurity entered into and acknowledged Bond in the Penalty of L 100 . conditioned according to Law
Teste Andw Reid C. R. C.

Friday Find

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 29, 2025
Christy,Mentzer,Ricketts,Wells,Woodson_County
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/29/friday-find-91/

Here's an improved version of your **Friday Find blog post** draft. I kept the genealogical detail intact but polished the flow, added context, and gave it a smoother introduction and conclusion so it reads more like a narrative instead of just a transcription:

Friday Find – Wells Family Records in Woodson County, Kansas

Today's Friday Find comes from my **Wells family notebook** and highlights a set of vital record transcriptions from **Woodson County, Kansas**, compiled by Betty Wasmer of Yates Center. These pages include deaths, births, and marriages for Wells relatives and their extended families. While the entries themselves are brief, they offer valuable clues about family connections in late 19th and early 20th century Kansas.

Woodson County Deaths (Pg. 93)

- **3 Jun 1873** – Wells, Thurston (Yates Center)
- **10 Nov 1879** – Wells, Wm. (Toronto)

Woodson County Births (Pgs. 76–77)

- **Mentzen, Chas. O. (25) & Nettie Wells (21)**
  9 Jul 1896 – Female, 1st child
- **Mentzen, C. O. (29) & Nettie Wells (25)**
  23 Aug 1898 – Male, 4th child
- **Mentzen, C. O. (31) & Nettie Wells (27)**
  20 Jul 1900 – Male, 5th child
- **Mentzen, Ernest (30) & Edith Dumond (26)**
  9 Apr 1911 – Male, 1st child
- **Mentzen, Henry (34) & May Litton (30)**
  10 Mar 1909 – Female, 1st child
- **Mentzen, J. F. (25) & Anna Wells (28)**
  19 May 1896 – Female, 1st child

Additional children of J. F. Mentzen and Anna Wells include:

- 7 Nov 1897 – Female (2nd)
- 26 Apr 1899 – Female (3rd)
- 18 Sep 1901 – Female (4th)
- 13 Jul 1904 – Male (6th)
- 30 Oct 1906 – ? (7th)
- 8 Jan 1909 – Female (8th)

Woodson County Births (Pg. 97)

- **Rickett, D. C. (28, Vernon, KS) & Anna Myers (19)**
  25 Sep 1905 – Female, 1st child
  12 Oct 1910 – Male, 2nd (Stubbs.?)

Woodson County Marriages (Pg. 22)

- 19 Feb 1890 – Briles, Edward G. (20) & Frances Ricketts (22)
- 7 Apr 1918 – Briles, Felix R. (21) & Lena White (24)
- 20 Apr 1919 – Briles, Glenn (24) & Ruth Lynn (26)
- 17 Jan 1934 – Briles, Glenn (51) & Mrs. Toole (64)
- 30 Jan 1916 – Briles, Wm. M. (18) & Monna Fitch (18)

Additional Marriages (Pg. 34)

- Christy, Addia (54) & Eva Waite (51) – 23 Dec 1924
- Christy, Buddy Chas. (18) & Carol B. Hart (18) – 8 Jan 1934
- Christy, F. M. (56) & S. L. Colligen (49) – 8 Jul 1907
- Christy, Earl M. & Anna Schornick (64) – 25 Apr 1942
- Ackerman, Otis L. & L. Tellie Christy – 10 Dec 1964
- Christy, Geo. W. (46) & Ila Hazen (42) – 18 Jan 1928
- Christy, Royce (38) & Wanda Strawder (38) – 10 Apr 1911

Typed Marriage Inserts – Mentzer Family

- Charles O. Mentzer (24) & Nettie A. Wells (20) – 18 Oct 1893, E-180
- Clarence Albert Mentzer (27) & Grace Graham (23) – 7 May 1913, I-438
- Ernest E. Mentzer (30) & Edith M. Dumond – 1 Jun 1910, I-125
- E. T. Mentzer (24) & Lorene Schooling (22) – 1 Jun 1938, N-405
- George F. Mentzer (23) & Anna M. Wells (23) – 27 Mar 1895, E-315
- Harley W. Mentzer (23) & Winiford McCormick (21) – 9 May 1928, L-451
- Henry Mentzer (28) & May Litton (25) – 25 Jun 1903, G-240
- Howard Mentzer (22) & Edna Peterson (19) – 15 Feb 1932, M-263
- Jerry Lee Mentzer (19) & Linda Marie Gregg (20) – 29 Jul 1967, R-81
- Leslie George Mentzer (25) & Vesta Marie Danielson (23) – 16 Apr 1924, L-125
- Loren Mentzer (26) & Etta Beth Schaich (22) – 1 Sep 1940, O-133
- Merrill Burdette Mentzer (27) & Marie Hazel Stout (20) – 7 Jul 1946, O-630
- Norryce Mentzer (28) & Alberta Mae Cook (18) – 15 Jan 1950, P-306
- Paul E. Mentzer (25) & Ada E. Saferite (26) – 25 Aug 1921, K-319
- Phillip E. Mentzer (28) & Anna M. Schoepflin (26) – 25 Oct 1905, H-85

Additional Records (Pg. 174, 96, 237, 226–227)

- Ricketts, Manford (27) & Lulu Beam (24) – 10 Oct 1902
- Howren, Walter J. (21) & Belle Ricketts (21) – 7 Sep 1893
- Yoho, Warnie (20) & Hazel Ricketts (17) – 12 Sep 1923

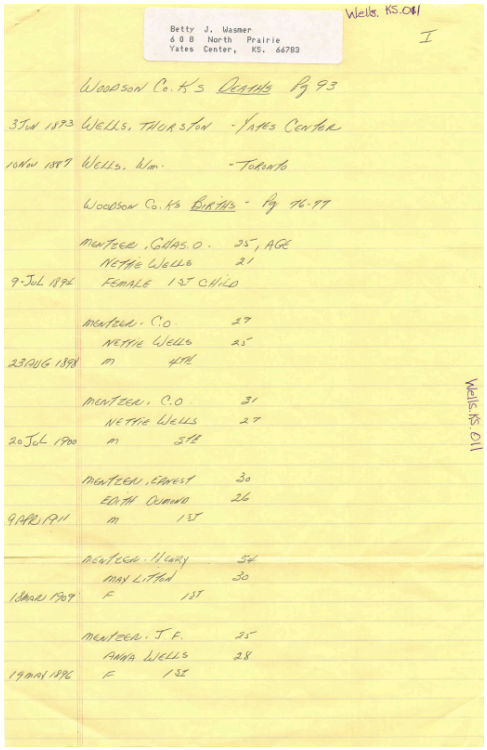
Typed Marriage Inserts – Wells Family

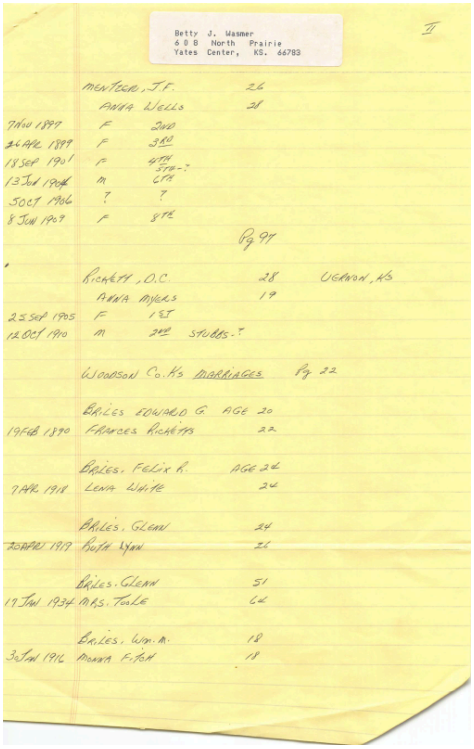
- Anthony R. Wells (19) & Cynthia G. Jesseph (17) – 1 Mar 1980, S-85
- Archie Wells (23) & Mary Mulsow (23) – 26 Nov 1911, I-271
- Charles E. Wells (24) & Mabel E. Holt (18) – 18 Jul 1906, H-159

- Charles Eugene Wells (21) & Margaret Marie Rollins (18) – 24 Jun 1951, P-403
- Clark Wells (21) & Icy Brooks (21) – 9 Jul 1913, I-462
- Clayton A. Wells Jr. (41) & Joan Elaine Orth (30) – 30 Oct 1975, R-401
- Clinton Wells (19) & Odessa Martin (19) – 25 Feb 1903, G-213
- Ferris Wells (21) & Pearl Henkle (18) – 8 Sep 1937, N-332
- F. O. Wells (46) & Sudie Curad (31) – 31 May 1899, F-256
- Hiram Wells (51) & Arkansas Cannady (49) – 14 Sep 1891, E-11
- J. J. Wells (50) & Elizabeth Lacrone (40) – 22 Dec 1870, B-44
- John Kline Wells (19) & Helen Elizabeth Cooper (21) – 30 Jul 1929, M-71
- Lee Wells (20) & Carrie Alice Slough (19) – 14 Feb 1943, O-364
- L. J. Wells (30) & S. J. McCormick (18) – 28 May 1872, B-72
- Leonard J. Wells (45) & Mary E. Dawson (23) – 27 Apr 1886, C-194
- Owen C. Wells (20) & Tillie Matilda Stranch (19) – 20 Feb 1926, L-272
- Rollin A. Wells (35) & Laura Moore (27) – 5 Jul 1902, G-141
- Robert R. Wells (25) & Dora A. Faler (21) – 30 Nov 1882, C-62

Closing Thoughts

This transcription work by Betty Wasmer preserves vital connections among the Wells, Mentzer, Ricketts, Christy, and Briles families of **Woodson County, Kansas**. Each entry provides not just names and dates, but also insights into migration, family size, and community ties. For anyone tracing Wells family lines—or their extended kin in Kansas—these records are a gold mine of leads for further research.





Betty J. Wasmer
6 0 8 North Prairie
Yates Center, KS. 66783

II

MENTZER, J.F. 24
ANNA WELLS 21
7 NOV 1897 F 2ND
24 APR 1899 F 3RD
18 SEP 1901 F 4TH Stan-?
13 JUL 1904 M CTS
5 OCT 1906 ? ?
8 JUN 1909 F 8TH

Pg 97

RICKETT, O.C. 28 UGANDA, KS
ANNA MYERS 19
25 SEP 1905 F 1ST
12 OCT 1910 M 2ND STUBBS-T

WOODSON Co. KS MARRIAGES Pg 22

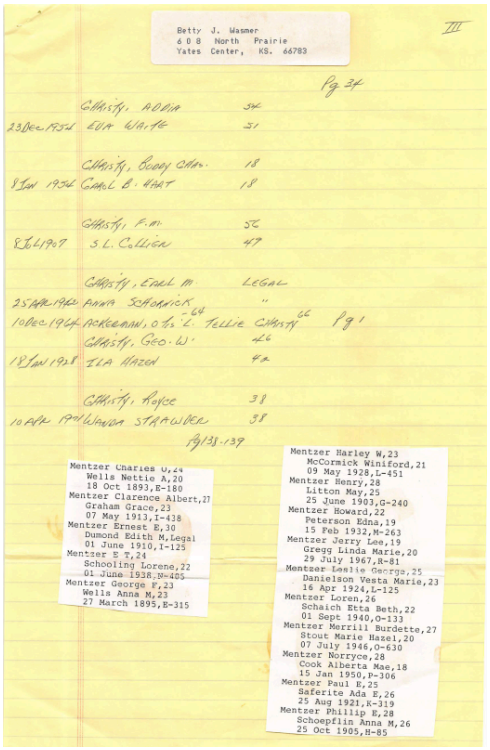
BAILES, EDWARD G. AGE 20
19 FEB 1890 FRANCES RICKETTS 22

BAILES, FELIX R. AGE 24
7 APR 1918 LENA WHITE 24

BAILES, GLENN 24
30 APR 1917 RUTH LYON 25

BAILES, GLENN 51
19 JUL 1934 MRS. TOOLE 62

BAILES, WM. M. 18
30 JUN 1916 ANNA F. FOX 18



Betty J. Wasmer
6 0 8 North Prairie
Yates Center, KS. 66783

III

Pg 34

CHRISTY, ADDIE 34
23 DEC 1934 EDA WAITE 51

CHRISTY, BOBBY CHAS. 18
8 JUN 1954 CARL B. HART 18

CHRISTY, F.M. 52
8 JUL 1907 S.L. COLLIER 47

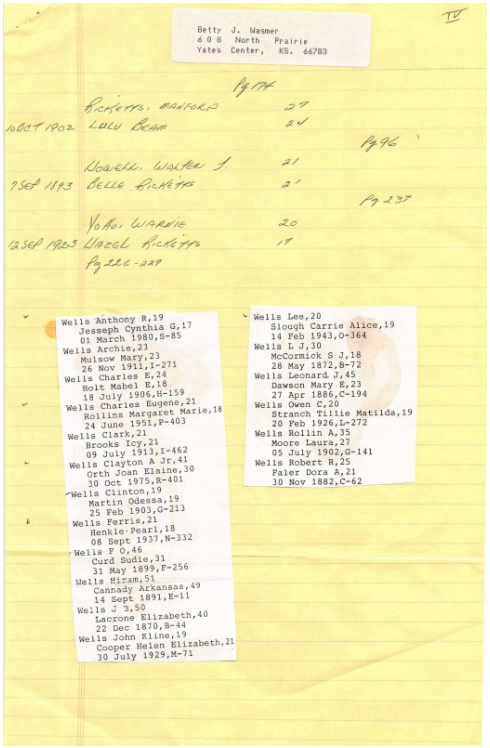
CHRISTY, EARL M LEGAL
25 APR 1942 ANNA SCHOMICK " 68
10 DEC 1944 ACKERMAN, O.T.'L' TILLIE CHRISTY 66 Pg 1
CHRISTY, GEO. W. 46
18 JUN 1938 ILA HAZEN 42

CHRISTY, ROYCE 38
10 APR 1941 WANDA STRAWDER 38

Pg 133-137

Mentzer Charles O,24
Wells Nettie A,20
18 Oct 1893,E-180
Mentzer Clarence Albert,27
Graham Grace,23
07 May 1913,I-438
Mentzer Ernest E,30
Dumond Edith M,Legal
01 June 1910,I-125
Mentzer E T,24
Schooling Lorene,22
01 June 1938,N-405
Mentzer George F,23
Wells Anna M,23
27 March 1895,E-315

Mentzer Harley W,23
McCormick Winiford,21
09 May 1928,L-451
Mentzer Henry,28
Litton May,25
25 June 1903,G-240
Mentzer Howard,22
Peterson Edna,19
15 Feb 1932,M-263
Mentzer Jerry Lee,19
Gregg Linda Marie,20
29 July 1967,R-81
Mentzer Leslie George,25
Danielson Vesta Marie,23
16 Apr 1924,L-125
Mentzer Loren,26
Schaich Etta Beth,22
01 Sept 1940,O-133
Mentzer Merrill Burdette,27
Stout Marie Hazel,20
07 July 1946,O-630
Mentzer Norryce,28
Cook Alberta Mae,18
15 Jan 1950,P-306
Mentzer Paul E,25
Saferite Ada E,26
25 Aug 1921,K-319
Mentzer Phillip E,28
Schoepflin Anna M,26
25 Oct 1905,H-85



Betty J. Wasmer
608 North Prairie
Yates Center, KS. 66783

IV

Pg 174

Richetts, Manford 27
10 Oct 1902 Lulu Beam 24

Pg 96

Howell, Walter J. 21
7 Sept 1893 Belle Richetts 21

Pg 237

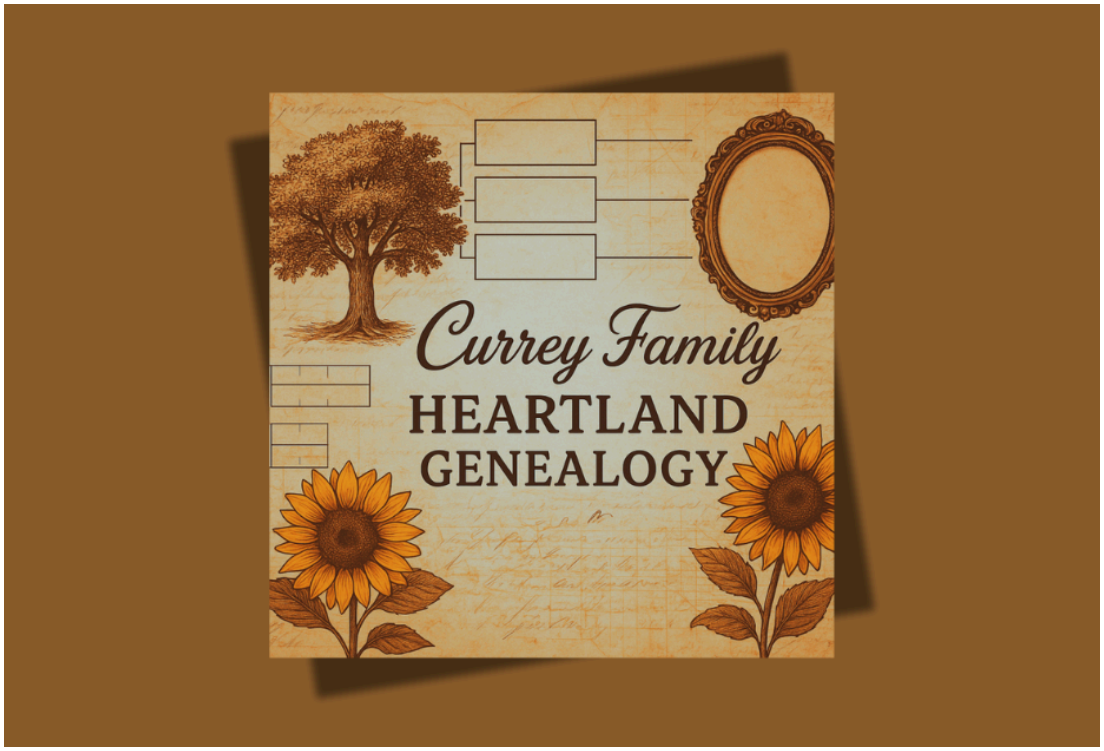
Yoho, Warnie 20
12 Sep 1923 Hazel Richetts 19
Pg 226-227

Wells Anthony R,19
Jesseph Cynthia G,17
01 March 1980,S-85
Wells Archie,23
Mulnow Mary,23
26 Nov 1911,I-271
Wells Charles E,24
Holt Mabel E,18
18 July 1906,H-159
Wells Charles Eugene,21
Rollins Margaret Marie,18
24 June 1951,P-403
Wells Clark,21
Brooks Icy,21
09 July 1913,I-462
Wells Clayton A Jr,41
Orth Joan Elaine,30
30 Oct 1975,R-401
Wells Clinton,19
Martin Odessa,19
25 Feb 1903,G-213
Wells Ferris,21
Henkie Pearl,18
08 Sept 1937,N-332
Wells F O,46
Curd Sudie,31
31 May 1899,F-256
Wells Hiram,51
Cannady Arkansas,49
14 Sept 1891,E-11
Wells J 3,50
Lacrone Elizabeth,40
22 Dec 1870,B-44
Wells John Kline,19
Cooper Helen Elizabeth,21
30 July 1929,M-71

Wells Lee,20
Slough Carrie Alice,19
14 Feb 1943,O-364
Wells L J,30
McCormick S J,18
28 May 1872,B-72
Wells Leonard J,45
Dawson Mary E,23
27 Apr 1886,C-194
Wells Owen C,20
Btranch Tillie Matilda,19
20 Feb 1926,L-272
Wells Rollin A,35
Moore Laura,27
05 July 1902,G-141
Wells Robert R,25
Faler Dora A,21
30 Nov 1882,C-62

ABC Biography: Henry Currey

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 30, 2025
ABC Biography,Currey
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/30/abc-biography-henry-currey/



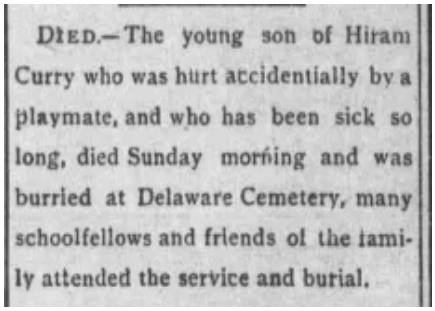
The Life and Death of Henry Curry

Henry Currey was born on **25 May 1893** in Liberty, Clay County, Missouri, the eldest son of Hiram M. Curry and his wife Winnie M. Hutchison 1 .

By June 1900, Henry was living with his parents in **Delaware Township, Leavenworth County, Kansas**, where he appeared on the federal census as a seven-year-old white male, born in May 1893 in Missouri 2 . Five years later, in the **1905 Kansas State Census**, Henry was enumerated with his family in Lansing, Leavenworth County, Kansas. At that time he was recorded as a twelve-year-old boy, born in Missouri 3 .

Tragedy struck in the spring of 1906. In mid-April, the *Leavenworth Times* reported that Henry was dangerously ill with **peritonitis**, a serious inflammation of the abdominal lining 4–5 . It was believed that his condition had been brought on after he was struck by a rock thrown by another boy. On **8 May 1906**, Henry underwent surgery in an attempt to relieve his condition. Newspaper reports describe how the twelve-year-old had been suffering for more than four weeks and had been in a precarious state much of that time 6–7 .

Despite medical intervention, Henry's illness proved fatal. He died on **20 May 1906** in Leavenworth County at just **twelve years of age** 1,8–9 . Obituaries in local newspapers recorded the sorrow of his family and community, with one article headlined *"Appendicitis Fatal"* noting the sudden loss 9 .


DIED.—The young son of Hiram Curry who was hurt accidentially by a playmate, and who has been sick so long, died Sunday morning and was burried at Delaware Cemetery, many schoolfellows and friends of the family attended the service and burial.

Henry was buried three days later, on **23 May 1906**, in **Delaware Cemetery, Delaware Township, Leavenworth County, Kansas** 10–12 . Reports of his funeral emphasized that many schoolfellows and friends of the Curry family attended the service and burial, paying their respects to the young boy whose life had been cut short 11–12 .

Citations

1. Hiram Currey, *Hiram Currey Family Bible* (New York: American Bible Society, 1880); Marcia Philbrick, Seneca, KS, Family Record.
2. 1900 U.S. Census, Leavenworth County, Kansas, population schedule, Delaware Township, ED 83, sheet 20B, image 40 of 48, household 364, Hiram M Carrey; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed Nov 2017); NARA T623.
3. 1905 Kansas State Census, Leavenworth County, Kansas, Lansing, page 2, image 3 of 58, household 11, H. M. Curry; digital image, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : viewed Nov 2017); Kansas State Historical Society.
4. *The Leavenworth Times* (Leavenworth, Kansas), “Tuesday, April 17,” local news, 19 Apr 1906, Henry Curry illness; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed Sep 2016).
5. *The Leavenworth Times* (Leavenworth, Kansas), “City News,” 17 Apr 1906, Henry Curry illness; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed Sep 2016).
6. *The Leavenworth Times* (Leavenworth, Kansas), “Wednesday, May 9,” local news, 10 May 1906, Henry Curry of Lansing operated on; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed Sep 2016).
7. *The Lansing News* (Lansing, Kansas), “Around Lansing,” 11 May 1906, p. 4; digital images, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed 23 Aug 2025).
8. *Lansing News* (Lansing, Kansas), “Around Lansing,” 25 May 1906, p. 4, col. 3.
9. *The Leavenworth Post* (Leavenworth, Kansas), “Appendicitis Fatal,” obituary, 21 May 1906, p. 1; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed 21 May 1906).
10. Find a Grave, database and images, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : viewed Sep 2016), memorial for Henry Curry (1893–1906), Memorial no. 149008342, citing Delaware Cemetery, Lansing, Leavenworth County, Kansas; created by Maggie O.
11. *The Leavenworth Post* (Leavenworth, Kansas), “Delaware and Vicinity,” local news, 24 May 1906; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed Sep 2016).
12. *Western Life* (Leavenworth, Kansas), “Delaware and Vicinity,” 24 May 1906, p. 4; digital image, Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : viewed 23 Aug 2025).

Saturday Night Genealogy Fun

By Marcia Crawford Philbrick
August 31, 2025
Crawford,SaturdayNightGenealogyFun
https://heartlandgenealogy.org/2025/08/31/saturday-night-genealogy-fun-169/

Calling all Genea-Musings Fans:

It's Saturday Night again –

Time for some more Genealogy Fun!!

Your mission, should you decide to accept it (cue the Mission Impossible! music) is to:

1) If you could go back in time to interview one of your ancestors, what questions would you ask him or her? Tell us your selected ancestor's name, their birth and death years/locations, and their spouse's name and marriage date/location. List at least five questions to ask that selected ancestor.

When I think about which ancestor I'd most like to interview, my mind immediately goes to **James Crawford (1772–1854)**, my brick-wall ancestor whose life still holds many unanswered questions. He lived in both Kentucky and Ohio, married Sally Duggins in 1799, and raised a family—but the details of his origins, connections, and relationships with other Crawford families remain elusive. If I had the chance to sit across the table from him, I'd want to fill in the gaps that records have left behind and finally untangle the web of Crawfords who lived along Paint Lick Creek in Garrard County and later in Preble County, Ohio.

If I could go back in time and sit down with my ancestor, James Crawford, I would have a long list of questions for him. His life touches on so many unanswered mysteries in my research, and his answers could help me sort out multiple Crawford families who lived in Kentucky and later in Ohio.

Questions I Would Ask James Crawford:

1. Where were you born, and who were your parents?
2. When, where, and how did you meet your wife, Sally Duggins?
3. Did you serve in the military? If so, which unit did you join, when and where did you serve, and were you involved in any battles?
4. Are you connected to these other Crawford families I've discovered in the records?
    - James Crawford (wife Rebecca), who owned land on Paint Lick Creek in Garrard County, Kentucky.
    - James Crawford (wife Mary), who owned land adjoining yours in Preble County, Ohio.
    - Rebekah Crawford, who owned land at the southern end of the Sugar Creek valley in Garrard County, Kentucky.
    - Mary Crawford, who also owned land on Sugar Creek.
    - William Sellers, with whom you purchased land in Preble County, Ohio.
      How are you related to each of them?
5. How did you travel from your birthplace to Garrard County, Kentucky, prior to your marriage in 1799? Who accompanied you on that journey?
6. Besides those already mentioned, were you related to other Crawfords living in Garrard County, Kentucky, or in Preble County, Ohio?
7. Do you know who your immigrant Crawford ancestor was? If so, who were they, when did they arrive in America, and where did they first settle?
8. Why did you and Sally name your son Nelson?
9. Did you have more than the two children we know about—Nelson and Elizabeth? If so, what were their names, did they live to adulthood, and whom did they marry?

As genealogists, we often piece together fragments of the past from deeds, wills, census records, and family stories. But if James Crawford could sit down and answer even a few of these questions, it would transform years of speculation into clarity. His answers would not only resolve lingering mysteries about family connections in Kentucky and Ohio but also give life and context to the names on the page. While I may never get to ask him directly, crafting these questions helps me focus my research and reminds me why the pursuit of family history is both challenging and deeply rewarding.